Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Should the House of Representatives impeach Gov. Benigno R. Fitial?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

MAHARLIKA

Kanoa Resort Saipan responded to calls for assistance for flooding victims in the Philippines by donating over 1,000 unused shirts to the donation drive sponsored by the LBC Foundation, the charitable arm of the global cargo forwarding company. ➤ PAGE 10

NATION

Republican presidential contender Mitt Romney promised on Thursday to aggressively expand off-shore oil drilling along Virginia, North Carolina and the Gulf of Mexico, changing the subject from social issues like abortion and Medicare that have dominated the debate in the days before the critical Republican National Convention. ➤ PAGE 13

YOUNGSTYLE

Araceli Cortes had made up her mind: After being brought to the U.S. as a child, graduating from high school and attending some college in California, she was going to return to Mexico to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor. ➤ PAGE 15

Ditch the tour guide, hit the road. PAGE 2
Mt. Tapochao rehabilitation to take off. PAGE 5

Renewable energy pursued despite 25-year power deal

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Despite a 25-year deal to build a 50-megawatt diesel power plant, acting governor Eloy S. Inos said the administration is still pursuing renewable energy development and is in fact poised to award a solar energy contract to American Capital Energy Co. and re-issue a request for proposal for geothermal energy drilling after running into some problems with a proposal earlier received from Australian-based KUTh Energy Ltd.

» Inos: Solar contract in the offing, new RFP for geothermal energy

Inos oversees the administration's renewable energy development efforts.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), chair of the Senate Committee

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BEFORE SIGNING 25-YEAR POWER CONTRACT

Fitial and Buckingham ignored consultant advice of full economic analysis

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Consultant economists.com "strongly advised" against signing a 25-year power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC because of a lack of full economic and financial impact analysis, but Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and former attorney general Edward Buckingham still went ahead and signed a no-bid deal with a guaranteed price of $190.8 million.

"Given the magnitude of SDLLC's proposal, and the potentially significant impact on CUC [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] operations and its ratepayers, we strongly advise that a thorough and comprehensive evaluation of this proposal be conducted," economists.com's Dan V. Jackson and Robert Young said in a July 27 memo to CUC acting executive director Alan Fletcher and chief financial officer

See FITIAL on Page 4

Federal grand jury indicts ex-police captain, 8 others

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A federal grand jury yesterday indicted nine persons, including former police captain Delbert Reyes Sablan as well as active and former law enforcers, who were all arrested on Saipan Wednesday by combined federal and local law enforcement agencies for alleged distribution of methamphetamine or "ice" and possession of a firearm by a felon charges.

Assistant U.S. attorney Clyde Lemons Jr. filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI five separate indictments against the defendants—Delbert Sablan, former Corrections officer Jesse Reyes Babauta, Customs officer Perry Magofna Iguel, Corrections officer Mariano Q. Falig Jr., Vicente Aldan Sablan, Division of Youth Services probation officer Leonard Urumelog Ordonez, former CNMI probation officer Robin Norita Sablan, Robin Sablan's wife Ofelia Pua Sablan, and Xiang Rong Li.

Delbert Sablan and former Correc-

See FEDERAL on Page 4

HEALTH CONCERNS

Heavy rains have been causing "pools" like this one by the beach in Lower Base, photographed against overcast skies. The Bureau of Environmental Health, in a public notice this week, urges the community to help prevent mosquito- and rodent-related illnesses by avoiding areas with standing water that are ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes, and removing all trash, tires, jars, cans, bottles, and other items that collect water, among other things.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Local

Ditch the tour guide, hit the road

By WANG JINGSHU
CHINA DAILY USA

After a 13-hour flight from Shanghai, Aileen Zhang is fatigued but eager to begin her first trip abroad.

She lands at San Francisco International Airport, retrieves her luggage from the carousel and passes through U.S. Customs. Then it's off to the car rental counter to pick up the car she reserved online from her home in China.

"It's very popular among our generation to travel around by renting vehicles," said Zhang, a software engineer in her late 20s. "Travel agencies might give people well-organized schedules, but what I want is a leisurely trip that's more free—not to rush from one tourist spot to another."

During July, she stopped in Los Angeles and other cities along California's Pacific Coast Highway before driving inland to Salt Lake City, Las Vegas, and Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming before ending up at Yellowstone National Park, which straddles three states.

Tourism from China to the U.S. has been on the rise since 2007, when the State Department relaxed its rules to make it easier for Chinese citizens to get short-term visas. The trend is expected to continue: About 1.1 million Chinese visited the U.S. in 2011, and the number is projected to reach 3.2 million visitors in 2016, according to the Commerce Department's Office of Travel and Tourism Industries.

"There is an explosion of travelers coming from China to the U.S.," said Skip Hull, vice-president of CIC Research Inc, which conducts surveys on behalf of the federal government and private companies.

AP

A group of tourists from China take in the sights of the New York Stock Exchange and Federal Hall National Memorial.

Washington's increase in the number of visa slots available to applicants in China this year is also helping push numbers to record highs, including scores of younger Chinese who prefer to travel by rental car, Hull said.

"Similar to the 1980s and Japan, there is a huge volume of independent travelers from China visiting the U.S.," he said. "We think that, over time, there will be many more younger Chinese traveling on their own instead of depending on travel agencies."

Among travelers to the U.S. who rent cars, the top three countries of origin in 2011 were Britain, Germany, and Japan, according to a report by the Commerce Department's International Trade Administration. China didn't appear in the report because its sample size was less than 400 renters, but Hull is sure the number will jump, especially given the "motorized generation" of Chinese in their 20s and early 30s.

"It would be lame to travel around the U.S. other than by driving," said Yang Liu, a 28-year-old from Beijing who is planning a trip to the U.S. in September. "There are so many desirable places in the U.S., and traveling by yourself, by car, is a good way to get around and see the real America."

Yang, who hopes to experience a "typical American lifestyle" during her visit, said, "The last thing I want to do is follow tour guides who organize everything while I just take photos in arranged places with people from my home country."

China's younger generation "doesn't share the same cultural history as the older generations in terms of automobiles," said Hull. The country's fast-growing auto industry acclimated Chinese youth to driving and cars from an early age, instilling a desire to explore the world "on their own".

Independent travelers from China ranged in age from 28 to 45, according to data compiled by Qyer.com, a popular website on which users share anecdotes and information about their trips, such as route planning, sights, hotels, restaurants, and car rentals.

Arranging one's itinerary beforehand based on information gleaned from the Internet is crucial, said Yang, who previously planned trips to Italy and Greece by herself. She finds the information available from fellow independent travelers on Qyer.com "very useful."

"The best pizza place we went to in Italy was mentioned in a post online. There is no way the travel agencies would take you to that kind of place," she says.

It's a challenge to visit an unfamiliar place, let alone a country, on your own. But in the digital age, with information just clicks or screen-touches away, the discovery can be fun and relatively easy.

"We spent two months planning our trip," said Feng Dan, who traveled around several big West Coast cities.

Information available online is comprehensive, including the U.S. visa application process as well as airline, car rental and hotel reservations, she said.

Traveling by car is a great way to see sights away from big cities and well-worn tourist attractions, said Feng, who appreciates the convenient U.S. interstate highway system.

"I like to grab the wheel and search for the real beauty the country presents on the road. I still remember the endless, crystal-clear blue sky and white curves along the coast when we were driving down the Pacific Coast Highway" and the scenic 17-Mile Drive in Northern California.

Driving in the U.S. is a much different experience than hitting the road in China, said Zhang, the visitor from Shanghai, who savors breathtaking views while behind the wheel.

"Driving in Chinese cities can be very intense sometimes," she says. "Cars are squeezing on the road in heavily populated cities and people sometimes will suddenly jump out in the street, but people in the U.S. tend to stick to traffic rules."

American movies and television have fueled many Chinese visitors' dreams of independent travel, she said.

"Although this is my first time visiting the U.S., I have familiar feelings while driving down the road. It was thrilling to see many yellow (Chevrolet) Camaros on the street because it reminds me of my favorite American drama, *Hawaii Five-0*."

Feng, who was impressed by the natural beauty viewed on her journey as well as the multiracial culture of the U.S., cautioned that safety concerns can put a damper on the exhilaration of travel.

"Someone broke into our car and stole our bags and cash, as well as passports, when we parked around the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco," she recalls. "Luckily, the Chinese consulate in San Francisco helped us get new passports in a short time, so we didn't miss our return flight."

Young, bilingual Chinese have high expectations about the quality of their travel, particularly when tour guides and group excursions aren't in the picture.

"It takes more time to travel independently," said Ji Tingting, marketing manager for Qyer.com. "But people value relaxation and entertainment on their trip over the desire to visit as many attractions as they can."

Feng recalls not having practiced her English since graduating from college, "but I picked it up during the trip, and we had a great time while chatting with local people".

Said Yang: "The language barrier might be a problem if you're going to Europe, but my trip to Italy and Greece proved that as long as you're an English speaker, you can go anywhere you want."

PSS submits revised $8.4 consolidated grant to USDOE

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The State Board of Education approved the submission of a revised consolidated grant for new fiscal year 2013, which zeroed out the travel allocation for students' competitions in the regional and national levels.

PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh disclosed that the previously allocated funding for the students' travel will be utilized by PSS in providing funding support for the maintenance of the system's educational technology, which has inadequate monies to sustain the repair and maintenance of networked computers, scanners, and printers in all schools.

The U.S. Department of Education earlier approved an $8.4 million consolidated grant for PSS for FY 2013. But due to the projected huge deficit in the national budget, the USDOE has issued a notice recently to all school districts mandating to eliminate the "travel" item in the FY 2013 consolidated grant. Thus, a revised application was requested to reflect these changes.

According to Thornburgh, the consolidated grant aims to achieve the following goals for PSS: that students are scoring at the 50th percentile or higher on the SAT 10; that 80 percent of the students are reading on or above grade level; and that 90 percent of the students are scoring at proficient or above on standard based assessment by 2014.

Under the revised $8.4 million consolidated grant, PSS set aside $900,000 for assessment; Troops to Teacher program was allocated $749,065; and $6.7 million will be used for public and private school programs and needs.

Of the $6.7 million funds for rural and low income schools, PSS will use $337,712 in administering the grant, while the remaining $6.4 million will be provided to private schools with $834,148 and public schools will get the bulk of $5.5 million.

According to Thornburgh, PSS will utilize $5.5 million to fund the salaries of 24 classroom teachers for class size reduction which is $1.1 million; salary for 11 reading resource teachers amounting to $254,835; public school-wide programs which is allocated $2 million; private school targeted assistance program with $598,148; public school targeted assistance program with $275,000; advance placement program with $50,000; career and technical education program with $200,000; monitoring and mentoring novice teachers with $50,000; and high school and junior high school after-school programs with $100,000.

PSS also set aside $100,000 for teacher recruitment, retention, and rewards and allocated $1.4 million for the educational technology program where maintenance and repair of computers, printers, and scanners were allocated $510,980. Funds reserved for distance education is $503,895; and PSS set aside $400,000 to buy new laptops for incoming seventh graders in public and private schools.

The consolidated grant also funds teachers' professional development amounting to $164,000 while the parental involvement program will get $62,000.

Musician arrested for allegedly sexually abusing a minor girl

Police arrested a musician Thursday night in Susupe for allegedly sexually abusing a minor girl.

Dan Kalikohua Johnson, 35, was taken to Superior Court yesterday on charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, and disturbing the peace.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a $50,000 cash bail, but allowed Johnson to post 10 percent of the amount or $5,000 cash.

Preliminary hearing will be on Aug. 30 at 9am.

Detective Josef P. Deleon Guerrero stated in his report that, on June 24, 2012 he received a call that a minor girl ran away from home.

Later that night, the detective said the girl called him and stated that she was at her aunt's residence in Kagman II.

The detective said he met with the girl and inquired as the reason why she ran away from home.

The detective said the girl later confessed that Johnson sexually abused her on May 17, 2009. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

USCIS REMINDS ALIEN IN-HOME CAREGIVERS:

'Give request 90 days before current parole expires'

Foreign workers who are in-home caregiver with parole status must apply for an extension of parole status and work document before they expire.

You should request an extension of your caregiver parole from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services 90 days before your current parole expires in order to avoid an interruption in work, as you will have to renew your work document as soon as you receive your parole extension.

To apply for extension of caregiver parole, compile the following:

1. Letter from your employer with:
- an explanation of why your employer continues to need your services
- your work schedule (days/hours)
- salary received, how it is paid, and how often
- other details of your arrangement, including other compensation
- employer's post office box and phone number

2. Current letter from your employer's doctor explaining the continuing need for a caregiver

3. Letter from you (the Caregiver) requesting an extension with:
- your P.O. box and telephone number
- A-number and date of current parole expiration

4. Completed Form G-325 for Caregiver

5. Copies of:
- photo page of your current passport
- current Caregiver Parole (front & back)
- any other paroles/approvals you were issued after receiving your Caregiver parole
- your Employment Authorization Card

6. Two passport-style photos

Place all of the above in a sealed envelope and write on the front of the envelope:

"Caregiver Parole Extension" / Your Name / Your A-number

Drop the sealed envelope off at the USCIS Saipan Office at TSL Plaza in Garapan any time Monday through Friday between 8:30am and 3pm. You do not need an appointment to apply for this extension or mail your request to:

DHS-USCIS Sirena Plaza, Suite 100
108 Hernan Cortez Avenue
Hagatna, Guam 96910
ATTN: CAREGIVER PAROLE EXTENSION - CNMI

Once your parole extension arrives in the mail, you can file the I-765 Application for Employment Authorization www.uscis.gov/I-765. There is no filing fee for parole, but there is a filing fee for Form I-765.

USCIS grants humanitarian parole if a caregiver is required for extraordinary medical or special needs reasons and meets other conditions for eligibility. USCIS is the agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that handles immigration benefits. More information can be found at www.uscis.gov/cnmi or by calling (800) 375-5283. ***(USCIS)***

CPA appoints Mendiola as Rota airport manager

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has named Martin Mendiola as new seaport and airport manager for Rota, a position vacated by longtime manager Thomas Manglona who was fired early this year.

Mendiola was welcomed by the CPA board during its regular meeting yesterday.

CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Mendiola is among three applicants for the position and he emerged the most qualified candidate to handle the operations of both seaport and airport on the island.

The new manager, Deleon Guerrero said, was approved a $50,000 per annum salary—the maximum wage set by the law for government employees.

Prior to serving the CPA, Mendiola served as the chief financial administrative officer of the Northern Marianas College. He also held management positions throughout the government serving as resident director of Commerce on Rota in 2005 and special assistant for projects for the Rota Mayor's Office in 2000.

Saipan Tribune learned that Mendiola also assumed the position of administrative officer for the Division of Public Lands on Rota in 1998; special assistant to then-Rota Rep. Alejo M. Mendiola in 1997; and researcher for the Rota Municipal Council in 1996.

Mendiola is a graduate of George Washington High School in Guam and attended the University of Guam and the Western Michigan University where he received his bachelors degree in social sciences and secondary teaching. He received his master's degree in educational leadership in 1977 from Western Michigan University.

It can be recalled that former Rota manager Thomas Manglona was terminated from his post without cause in April this year. The reason for his termination was believed to be caused by "political bickering" between his brother Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Manglona officially exited the position on May 9. CPA announced the vacancy thereafter. In the former manager's contract, a provision allows the CPA management to end term with or without cause.

Well-loved musician from Tinian passes away

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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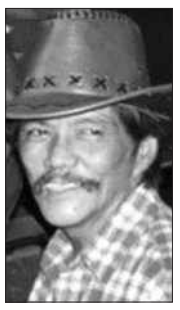
REPORTER

Tinian resident Francisco "Ko" M. Dela Cruz, known for his original Chamorro music, passed away on Friday evening of cancer. He was 58.

"It's a very difficult year for the family. Two of my brothers died this year. Ko's death is a major blow. He always keeps the family's spirits high, always brings his guitar and keyboard to play his music. He brings us all together. We will surely miss him. He is well loved," Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.


Dela Cruz

Ko is the mayor's younger brother. The mayor said his brother died of cancer.

The mayor said he wants his brother to be remembered for his "love of music and passion for entertaining people."

"He always sings of love for family, family values, unity," the mayor said. "One of his requests is that when he dies, he wants people to still play his music. His grandchildren are following in his steps. They would be playing his music too."

Don Farrell, a CNMI historian, separately said yesterday that much of Ko's original music "was adapted from songs taught him by his father after the war."

Ko's music was featured on Power 99 FM radio last Saturday, Farrell said.

Ko is survived by his wife, Anita Atoigue, and seven children: Laura, Francisco, Jr., Manel, Luke, Antoinette, Doris Ann, and Jesse. He has 32 grandchildren.

He is the son of Manuel Lizama Dela Cruz and Blandina Cabrera Muna, both deceased. His siblings are Carmen, Ramon, Cynthia, Vicente, Jose, Edward and Lucia.

His son Luke has just arrived from Iraq and is staying at his father's house.

The mayor's other brother, Antonio, also passed away in February this year.

Last respects for Ko will be held today at San Jose Church beginning at 8am and concluding at 2pm. Mass for a Christian Burial will be offered at 11am, followed by interment at Tinian Cemetery.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 30, 2012, at 10:00 A.M. at the CRM Office Located behind the Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicle in Susupe.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
a) Call to Order
b) Roll Call
II. **PERMIT APPLICATION**
Chalan Galaide Estate – CRM Permit no. SMS-2011-X-063
a. Request to Amend Permit
b. Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO
III. **OTHER MATTERS**
IV. **ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **RITA C. CHONG - DELACRUZ**
Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners Board of Directors, is hereby giving notice that the Board will have an emergency meeting on Monday, August 27th, 2012. The meeting will be held at the CEO's Conference Room II, Commonwealth Health Corporation, Saipan, from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary Matters –**
1. Roll Call
II. **Call to Order**
III. **Adoption of Minutes -**
1. May 27, 2012
IV. **Adoption of Agenda**
1. New CBNE License Card Issues
2. Financial Report
3. CBNE Autonomous Bill
4. Application Submission:
i. Clarification/Legibility
ii. Incomplete / Questionable information
V. **Board Executive Session:**
1. Approval of Drafted Rules and Regulations from AG
2. APRN Emergency Order
3. CBNE Resolution Approving BOG Account
4. CBNE Members Business Cards
VI. **Miscellaneous**
VII. **Adjournment**

/s/ Aurelia G. Long, NP
Chairperson

Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic

Please join us in
Celebrating 40 years
of Service to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands

40 YEARS OF TRUSTED SERVICE
40 Years

Help us welcome back
Dr. Steve and Carol Fisher

Open House at SDA Clinic
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Friday, September 7, 2012

'Unnamed retirees no chance to prevail in motions to stop EO'

The Office of the Attorney General is opposing the two unnamed retirees' motions to prevent the enforcement of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's executive order declaring a state of emergency for the financially troubled NMI Retirement Fund.

Assistant attorney general Reena Patel, as counsel for Fitial and co-defendants Department of Finance and the CNMI government, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to deny the two unnamed retirees' emergency motion for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction.

In Fitial's and co-defendants' opposition to the motions, Patel said the plaintiffs—two unnamed retirees—have virtually no chance of success on the merits as the governor is permitted to issue an executive order restructuring the offices, agencies, and instrumentalities of the executive branch.

Patel said the balance of hardships tips in the CNMI government's favor because by blocking the implementation of Executive Order 2012-06, the government, which is the ultimate guarantor for the Fund, will be prevented from taking the necessary actions to rehabilitate the pension system.

"Finally, the public interest supports not granting the injunctive relief because to do so would hamstring the CNMI government's exercise of its inherent police powers in furtherance of solving this crisis," Patel said.

Attorney Jorgensen and co-counsels Robert M. Hatch, Margery S. Bronster, and Stephen C. Woodruff asserted that their motion for TRO and preliminary injunction seeks to prevent Fitial from "illegally seizing the Fund and assuming dictatorial control over it."

Last June 7, Fitial issued Executive Order 2012-06 that suspends the power of the Fund's board of trustees and administrator, and transfers this executive power to Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

FEDERAL

From Page 1

tions officer Jesse Reyes Babauta are charged in one indictment.

The indictment charged Delbert Sablan with three counts of felon in possession of a firearm.

Babauta was charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine; four counts of distribution of methamphetamine; one count of distribution of methamphetamine in or near school grounds; one count of using, carrying, or possessing a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence or drug trafficking crime; and one count of possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number.

According to the indictment, Delbert Sablan was found in possession of one Winchester .30 caliber rifle on March 2, 2011.

Delbert Sablan was also allegedly found in possession of one Smith & Wesson 9mm handgun and 12 rounds of 9mm ammunition on Aug. 22, 2012.

In October 2011, a federal grand jury convicted Delbert Sablan of one count of theft concerning federal money. He was subsequently sentenced in February 2002 to 27 months in jail.

The former police captain used to be chief of the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau.

With respect to Babauta, according to the indictment from June 2010 until Aug. 22, 2012, the defendant allegedly conspired with other persons to distribute "ice."

Babauta allegedly distributed 1.5 grams of "ice" on Oct. 19, 2010; one gram of "ice" on Feb. 17, 2011; 1.3 grams of "ice" on March 1, 2011; 1.3 grams of "ice" within 1,000 feet of Mount Carmel School; and .55 grams of "ice" on March 22, 2011.

Babauta allegedly carried and used a Smith & Wesson .38 caliber revolver with an obliterated serial number during an in relation to his distribution of .55 grams of "ice" on March 22, 2011.

Babauta was also allegedly found in possession of a Colt .38 caliber revolver with a removed, altered, and obliterated serial number.

The other indictment charged Customs officer Iguel with one count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, and two counts of distribution of methamphetamine.

According to the indictment, from June 10, 2010 until Aug. 22, 2012 Iguel conspired with other persons to distribute "ice."

Aguel allegedly distributed "ice" on Dec. 13, 2011 and Jan. 10, 2012. The indictment did not indicate how much "ice" was involved in the alleged transactions.

The other indictment named Falig and Vicente Sablan, also known as Ben Seven, as the defendants.

Falig and Sablan were charged with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and distribution of methamphetamine. In addition, Falig was charged with using, carrying, or possession of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence or drug trafficking crime.

From June 2010 until Aug. 22, 2012 Falig and Sablan allegedly conspired with other persons to distribute "ice."

Falig and Sablan allegedly distributed .59 grams of "ice" on March 22, 2011.

On March 22, 2011, Falig allegedly carried and used a Smith & Wesson 9mm caliber semi-automatic pistol during and in relation to the drug trafficking of .59 grams of "ice."

The fourth indictment named Ordonez, and the couple Robin and Ofelia Sablan as defendants.

The three defendants were charged with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. From June 10, 2010 until Aug. 22, 2012 the three defendants allegedly conspired with other persons to distribute "ice."

In addition, Robin Sablan was charged with one count of distribution of methamphetamine for allegedly distributing less than a gram of "ice" on March 24, 2011.

The last indictment named Li as the lone defendant.

Li was charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute five or more grams of methamphetamine, and four counts of distribution of methamphetamine.

The indictment alleged that from June 2010 until Aug. 22, 2012 Li conspired with persons to distribute five or more grams of "ice."

Li allegedly distributed 1.4 grams of "ice" on May 19, 2011, 1.4 grams of "ice" on June 14, 2011, 1.7 grams of "ice" on July 19, 2011, and .68 grams of "ice" on Aug. 4, 2011.

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI, on Wednesday disclosed that the arrests of the suspects came about after a two-year long Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force investigation by federal and local authorities.

ENERGY

From Page 1

on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, said last night that the government has to speed up its alternative energy efforts.

"We have to pursue renewable energy. By law, we should have been relying on 40 percent renewable energy by now. The administration should fast track alternative energy development," Ayuyu told *Saipan Tribune*.

He also said that the "questionable" 25-year agreement with Saipan Development LLC, which was granted the exclusive right to develop a diesel-generated electric power plant on Saipan, shouldn't be pursued until a full economic study is done.

Inos said he sees these renewable energy efforts "complementing" CUC's existing power, or the new 50MW power plant by Saipan Development LLC if it moves forward.

He said the government is about to award a 20-year solar energy contract to U.S.-based American Capital Energy Co. This firm's local business partner is Herman Sablan.

Inos said American Capital Energy, as of now, can only go with 10MW of solar power "because putting up the second 10MW could create a lot of problems with the grid."

Moreover, such solar power operation is not 24 hours, so other types of alternative energy or diesel-generated power plant would still be needed to meet Saipan's power needs.

Inos said under the proposed agreement, American Capital Energy would be charging CUC 18 cents per kilowatt hour. CUC currently charges residential customers over 30 cents per kWh.

"The capital investment is so huge that it may need significant time to recover capital… that 18 cents, that's only when they produce (renewable energy)," Inos added.

The proposed contract also provides for an "escalation cost," which means it increases by a certain percentage every year.

"The contract is still in the works… it's with the legal team," he added.

The contract award for Japan-based Saipan Solar System, meanwhile, has been put on hold for technical concerns.

Geothermal energy

Inos said the geothermal energy development "kind of took a detour because we're not satisfied with the proposal to go drilling and on to production."

"So we kind of scaled it back and we're going to do drilling and exploration. And once we get the data, then we examine the data and maybe at that time we will do an RFP for production. We're going to issue an RFP for the drilling (first)," Inos said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* and KSPN 2.

The acting governor said KUTh "was the frontrunner in the original RFP."

KUTh was to do geothermal drilling exploration, and on to production.

But Inos said they would like to separate the drilling exploration from production.

Inos said the government talked again to KUTh about the plan.

"They're not pleased with that, but it's a work in progress. Our team is supposed to put together something that will communicate this before we even do that. In the meantime, we're planning on putting out the RFP, which was the original RFP, just for drilling. In fact that's the only money we have available (which) is for drilling—$1.2 million from the Interior Department," he said.

The Interior provided $1.2 million in funding assistance for geothermal exploration and development in the CNMI. CUC then selected KUTh to drill a 600-meter deep geothermal gradient well, which is also known as the Stage 1 geothermal gradient project.

FITIAL

From Page 1

Charles Warren.

Fletcher repeated the same advice in an email three days later to the Office of the Attorney General.

In that email, he attached economists.com's two-page "SDLLC initial analysis," a copy of which was provided by Fletcher to the media yesterday.

"Please note—this is a preliminary and cursory analysis. Economists.com and CUC recommended a full economic analysis prior to formalizing a PPA. Without said analysis, there could be unintended surprises down the road," Fletcher told assistant attorneys general Gil Birnbrich and Tiberius Mocanu.

Fletcher also said that Young remarked that planning numbers for a 50MW power plant would normally be in the $50-million to $60-million range.

Deleon Guerrero said if what economists.com said was true, then "how come Saipan Development LLC's proposed 50MW power plant is over $190 million?"

Some four days later after Fletcher sent that email to Birnbrich and Mocanu, Fitial and Buckingham signed the PPA.

The signing was made on Buckingham's last work day as CNMI attorney general and a day before his controversial departure from Saipan.

House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) said yesterday that the PPA raised more questions than answers because among other things, the agreement was signed despite the absence of a full economic analysis.

"Without a full economic analysis, nobody knows its impact on ratepayers, CUC and the government. That is why it is important to hold off action on this contract without getting a full economic analysis. We don't even know if there are hidden costs," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He also said that keeping the Saipan Development proposal and the actual signing of the agreement secret except for a handful of individuals including Fitial and Buckingham goes against transparency and accountability in government.

Jackson and Young said it would be inappropriate to offer even preliminary conclusions about the economic and financial impact of Saipan Development LLC's proposal to build a 50-megawatt power plant because of a lack of data to conduct a full analysis.

And in that July 27 memo, CUC consultant economists.com was already specifically referring to Saipan Development LLC's proposed 50-megawatt power plant to replace CUC's existing Power Plant 1 in Lower Base.

Economists.com listed at least 10 sets of data that are needed before they could complete a definitive analysis of the costs and benefits of the proposal, including the types of engines to be included in the facility whether high speed or medium speed, and engine configurations—whether five 10MW generators, 10 5MW generators, and so forth.

At the time, economists.com didn't have data on engine fuel efficiency, the terms and conditions of the PPA, the extent to which the agreement represents a turnkey operation or whether additional costs could be imposed on CUC under given circumstances, among other things.

Jackson and Young proposed to CUC officials that economists.com be authorized to meet and work closely with Saipan Development LLC representatives and their U.S. affiliates to be able to develop the data they require to complete the analysis.

Economists.com said there would be both additional costs and benefits to CUC of constructing such a facility.

It said CUC ratepayers would be required to fund the capital cost of the plan, the construction of lines and substations required to connect the facility to CUC's existing grid, and the annual operating costs of the facility.

"However, CUC could potentially reduce its operating costs by closing PP1 and scaling back operations at its other generation facility. Also, there may be some increased fuel efficiencies that could potentially reduce CUC's current LEAC fuel charge," it said.

Economists.com also said "based on some very preliminary and undocumented numbers provided to us on a spreadsheet it appears that the capital and operating cost (excluding fuel) is about the same as the operating costs of PP1."

"However, because cost of fuel can be three or four times the cost of capital and non-fuel operation and maintenance, it is critical that we have more information so that we can analyze the total cost of electricity to the CNMI from the new power plant," it said.

A copy of the 41-page PPA that Fitial and Buckingham signed on Aug. 3 was leaked to the media some two weeks later and that was only the first time that most CNMI government officials and ordinary citizens knew of such a contract.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, also unaware that such a contract was signed by Fitial and Buckingham two weeks earlier, asked for a full economic analysis of the PPA.

A Superior Court judge also granted a request for temporary restraining order on the PPA.

The Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications chaired by Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) called Fletcher to a meeting in the Senate chamber on Aug. 16.

Fletcher reiterated to the media yesterday that he was not involved in direct negotiations with Saipan Development LLC after around July 10.

"CUC, myself included, did provide information when requested by the negotiation team, after that date. This preliminary work was part of the information provided. Also, as stated at the hearing, I had numerous concerns with the proposed agreement. We consistently recommended thorough analysis for decision making," Fletcher said.

Fletcher added that CUC is currently putting together a full information packet as requested by the Committees on Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee and the PUTC.

"Until that information request is finalized, I prefer to not release additional information," he said.

Fitial, in his email to Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), the proposed power plant would have a 10-percent or greater efficiency compared to what CUC currently obtains.

Deleon Guerrero said a 10-percent efficiency rate "is not a high threshold of sufficiency compared to an engine that's already 20 or 30 years old."

Mt. Tapochao rehabilitation to take off

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Mt. Tapochao rehabilitation project will finally break ground next week after years of planning and preparation, including setting aside the needed funds to restore the grandeur of Saipan's highest peak.

Managing director Perry Tenorio of the Marianas Visitors Authority reported during Wednesday's board meeting that the project contract has been signed and the notice to proceed has been issued to the chosen contractor, CMI.

» Groundbreaking to be held Thursday

The groundbreaking for the $48,000-project is scheduled on Thursday, he added.

"We would recommend that there be blackout times so that the tour guides will not bring in tourists.We'll be issuing public announcements and notices for that," Tenorio told the board.

MVA, the lead agency for the rehabilitation project, is paying for more than half—or $25,000—of the project cost, while the rest of the tab will be picked up by other organizations and entities, namely the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Tournament of Champions beautification fund, and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Tenorio disclosed that the original intent of the project was to replace the old railings at Mt. Tapochao.

"When we got all the partners involved, we decided to do a little bit more to enhance that tourist site," he said, adding that the project would take a month to complete.

Asked about the maintenance of the area after its rehabilitation, Tenorio said that it's a "turnkey" arrangement and that the upkeep would have to be done by the Department of Public Works, Division of Parks & Recreation or the Mayor's Office.

Board director Jerry Tan noted that since a lot of the funding for the Mt. Tapochao rehabilitation project came from the private sector, the agency can go out and engage other businesses to sponsor the same undertaking for other tourist sites on island.

"Relying on government resources to fix some of our tourist spots is just very difficult because I don't think that's going to be a priority at this point," he explained.

Tan recommended that the board decide on three other important sites on island that need enhancement and limit the project cost to about $50,000. He said there are companies on island that are willing to spend that amount to help the community, adding that more than one business can pool the needed resources together to make the rehabilitation projects a reality.

Tenorio pointed out that with the recently legislated $15 hotel occupancy fee, MVA can also work on having the "seed money" to address the problems on various tourist sites, and Tan said this money can serve as "matching fund" for the project costs.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Marianas Visitors Authority board director Jerry Tan addresses other directors while chair Marian Aldan-Pierce looks on during a meeting on Wednesday.

Wiseman finds without merit allegations against juvenile probation supervisor

The Superior Court has ordered the immediate reinstatement of Sylvio S. Ada to his position of juvenile probation supervisor/social worker III within the Division of Youth Services after finding as without merit and unsupported by the record the allegation that he went to Rota on a fake trip.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman in his order issued on Wednesday determined that Ada's trip to Rota was lawful, without deceit, and for purposes of government duties consistent with his representation.

Wiseman reversed Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin O. Faisao's proposed termination of Ada after determining it is unsupported by the evidence and constitutes an arbitrary and capricious agency action.

The judge found Faisao's demotion of Ada as arbitrary and capricious and unsupported by substantial evidence, as well as a violation of the Personnel Service System Rules & Regulations (PSSR).

"Any reduction in wages, benefits, salaries, and other compensation during the defacto demotion period of, if any, shall be paid to petitioner Sylvio S. Ada, as well as for the period from his termination from Sept. 30, 2011, through his reinstatement by the court in December 2011," Wiseman said.

Wiseman directed the Office of Personnel Management and the Office of the Attorney General to ensure compliance with his order.

Attorney Robert T. Torres, counsel for Ada, told the media that with the court's ruling, his client is vindicated.

"Ultimately the court underscored the importance of due process and that an agency must follow the rules when dealing with an adverse action," Torres said.

Faisao proposed the termination of Ada on Sept. 30, 2010 for allegedly failing to adequately explain the discrepancies between what actually occurred during his Rota trip on Dec. 4, 2009 and what he reported as justification for the trip.

Faisao accused Ada for "deceivingly" justifying government travel to and from Rota for bogus court hearings.

Ada appealed.

In his order favorable to Ada, Wiseman said he finds that there is substantial evidence that Ada did not misrepresent the nature of his trip and that the trip to Rota was for a lawful purpose without falsification or evasion of purpose.

Wiseman determined that although, initially, Ada's demotion was not apparent with the merging or restructuring memorandum, Faisao, in his capacity as DCCA secretary, has in fact demoted him.

Faisao placed Ada in a line position below a Social Worker III, according to the judge.

Wiseman said he generally is reluctant to intervene within an Executive Branch agency.

But, Wiseman said, the foregoing facts and evidence compel that action inasmuch as the agency itself and those charged with the application of the PSSRs and Civil Service Act disregarded their responsibilities. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Online courses to alleviate overcrowding in public schools

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

In anticipation of larger class sizes, the Public School System is offering online courses for secondary students to alleviate overcrowding in classrooms when school opens on Sept 4.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan disclosed that as of Wednesday, PSS recorded 813 high school students registered for these online programs, which will be made available for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Sablan revealed that due to the shortage of classroom teachers, both elementary and secondary schools will accommodate larger classes, especially in high school where the expected teacher-to-student ratio is 1:45. PSS is short of 87 teachers this school year.

From nearly 600 classroom teachers in previous years, PSS has only a little over 400 this year as a result of resignations and PSS financial inability to hire replacements.

"Hopefully, our online courses will alleviate some of the big class sizes at the high school level," she said during the board's special meeting Wednesday, adding that this is in addition to allowing counselors and program managers who are highly qualified teachers to teach classes in high school.

» 813 high school students enrolled at PSS online programs

Under the newly created cluster schools, PSS also allows elementary teachers who are qualified to teach high school content areas in their cluster school to extend assistance by teaching during double session. Elementary students are dismissed earlier than their high school counterparts.

Sablan reported to the board that all schools have already identified spaces for their online courses as well as the needed support system for students.

It was revealed that online programs are offered on a first-come, first-serve basis with priority given to high school juniors and seniors for high-demand courses. These courses allow students to receive credit required for promotion and graduation. PSS earlier said that courses that do not meet the minimum number of students will not be offered.

It was learned that online courses will begin Sept. 4, 2012 through Jan. 18, 2013. These courses include Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, U.S. History, AP U.S. History, U.S. Government & Economics, NMI History, Health, Environmental Science, Biology, Chemistry, Integrated Literature & Composition (LA 1), World Literature (LA 2), American Literature (LA 3), British Literature (LA 4), Pre-AP English Language, AP English Language, Chamorro, Carolinian, Japanese, Middle School English, Middle School Science, Middle School General Math, Pre-Algebra, Accelerated Reading & Writing, Financial Literacy, SAT Prep, Teacher Academy, Student Leadership, Computer Applications, Computer Literacy, Psychology, and Multimedia and Video Production.

UOG mourns passing of Dr. Lynn Raulerson

The University of Guam community is deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. Lynn Raulerson, Professor of Biology and Curator of the Herbarium at the University of Guam College of Natural and Applied Sciences.

"This is a tremendous loss for our campus and the community," said University of Guam President Dr. Robert A. Underwood. "Dr. Raulerson touched the lives of so many, and our thoughts are with her family and friends during this difficult time."

Raulerson

Dr. Raulerson had been a professor at the University of Guam since 1971 and a college instructor since 1959. She received her Ph.D. in biology with an emphasis in ecology from the University of Georgia in 1970 and has been curator of the University of Guam Herbarium since 1981. Her research interests included the systematics of Micronesian plants, especially those of Guam and the other Mariana islands.

"Dr. Raulerson was a strong advocate for quality education in the biomedical sciences, and as a result, her students excelled in both medical practice and scientific research, many of them becoming physicians and scholars," said Dr. Helen J.D. Whippy, UOG Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. "Her legacy lives on with the impacts she had on the minds and hearts of University of Guam students."

The University of Guam will host a memorial service for Dr. Raulerson on Thursday, August 30, 2012, 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the UOG Fine Arts Theater. In lieu of flowers, the organizers request that her former students bring in "specimens" for the Herbarium with the identifying information on a card. ***(UOG)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Pussy Riot sentences shouldn't derail our trade relations with Russia

Although dramatically less oppressive than the old Soviet Union, post-communist Russia is far from a model of civil rights. That reality was underlined most recently by the shocking two-year prison sentences imposed on three performance artists who offered a "punk prayer" critical of Russian President Vladimir Putin in a Moscow cathedral.

The Obama administration rightly has denounced the disproportionate punishment meted out to three members of the feminist band Pussy Riot and has urged Russian authorities to review the case. But the administration is also, appropriately, pressing Congress to approve permanent normal trade relations with Russia. With Russia's admission to the World Trade Organization, such relations would mean increased exports for U.S. manufacturers and more jobs for American workers.

We see no contradiction here. The Pussy Riot sentences—and other examples of Russian intolerance, such as a ban in Moscow on gay pride parades—are troubling. But normal trade relations shouldn't be conditioned on a requirement that a trading partner replicate the political system of the United States. That doesn't mean the United States can't address violations of human rights in Russia in other ways.

The obstacle to permanent normal trade relations with Russia is the Jackson-Vanik amendment, enacted in 1974 to pressure the Soviet Union into allowing Jews to emigrate to Israel. Whatever the wisdom of Jackson-Vanik at the time, it was designed to address a problem and an adversary that no longer exist. Committees in both the House and Senate have acknowledged as much by approving repeal.

But both chambers also are moving toward enacting legislation to sanction officials in Russia—and, in the case of the Senate bill, in other countries—who violate human rights. The Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act is named after a Russian lawyer who died in custody after accusing a group of officials of a $230-million tax-return fraud. The bill would deny visas to officials who engaged in human rights abuses and freeze their financial assets in the United States—actions the Obama administration says it already has taken on its own.

The Pussy Riot sentences are likely to increase support in Congress for the Magnitsky bill. But they shouldn't derail approval of normal trade relations with Russia. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton makes another point: "By extending those trading relations, we can create new markets for our people and support the political and economic changes that Russia's people are demanding." A policy of trade and engagement—coupled with criticism when necessary—made sense in the Cold War. It still does.

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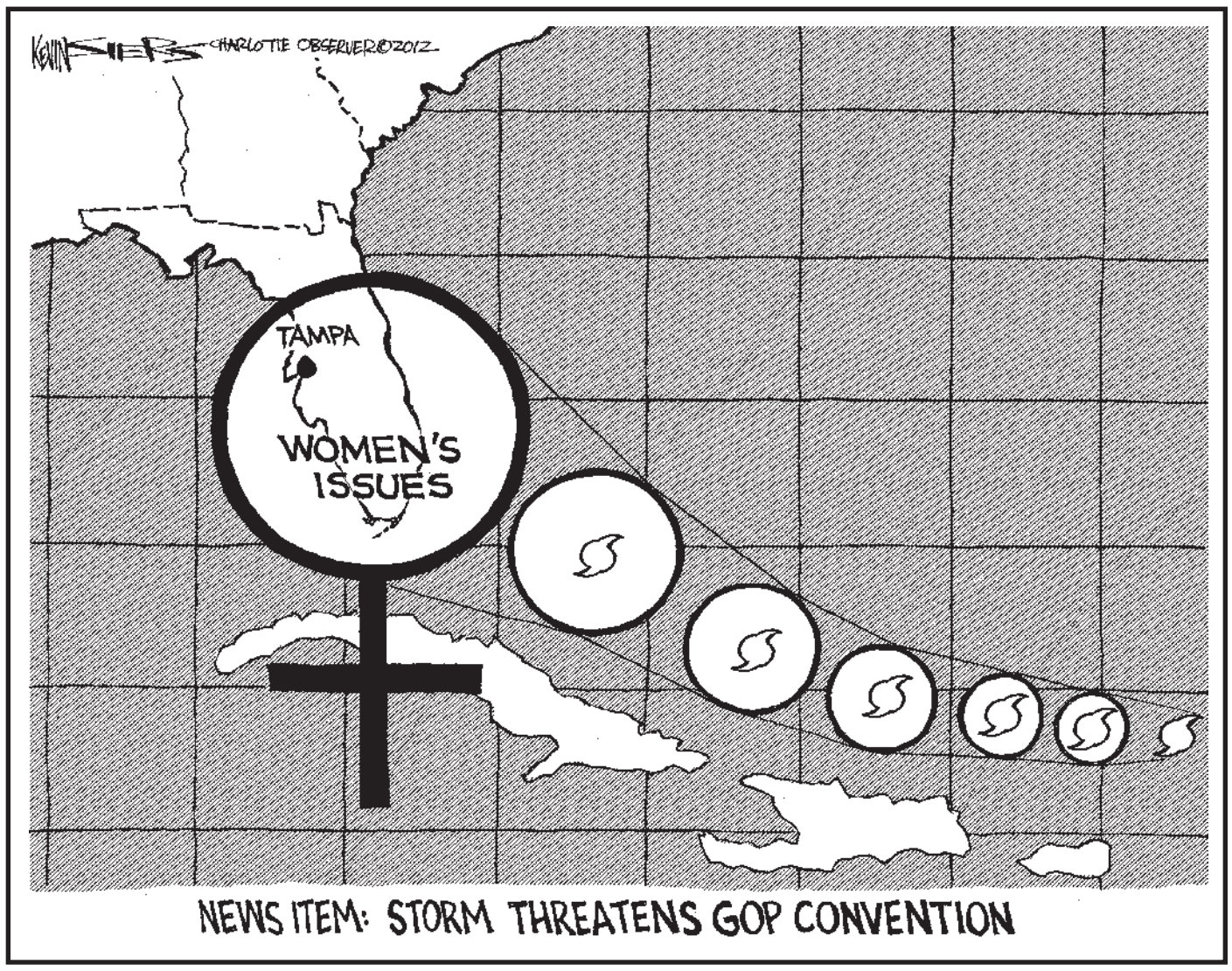

Ecuador's crusade for Assange is all about power

By ANDRES OPPENHEIMER
The Miami Herald

Andres Oppenheimer is a Latin America correspondent for the Miami Herald.

While Ecuador's populist President Rafael Correa steps up his international offensive to grant political asylum to Wikileaks founder Julian Assange, an exiled Ecuadoran journalist seeking political asylum has some very interesting insights into what's behind the Ecuadorian leader's latest quest for international attention.

Emilio Palacio, the former leading columnist of Ecuador's daily El Universo and author of the soon-to-be published book "El periodista de los $80 millones" (The $80 million journalist) says Correa's international media show to protect Assange is not only part of the Ecuadorean president's effort to repair his own image as a ruthless censor of the press, but is also part of his campaign to become a leader of Latin America's radical left.

Correa suspects that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Cuba's historic leader Fidel Castro may die soon, and is trying to project his image abroad in hopes of becoming the new leader of the Venezuela-led ALBA bloc of radical leftist countries, Palacio says.

Palacio is one of the several well-known Ecuadoran journalists who have been victims of what leading freedom of the press groups—including the Committee to Protect Journalists, Human Rights Watch and the Inter American Press Association—have described as Correa's relentless crackdown on freedom of the press at home.

Correa, who has shut down several news outlets over the past year, sued Palacio and three directors of El Universo for $80 million and asked for three years in prison for an opinion column Palacio wrote in which he called the Ecuadoran president a "dictator." A judge ruled in Correa's favor and ordered the journalists to pay $40 million, but the president later pardoned them.

Palacio, however, is seeking political asylum in the United States because he has another pending suit filed by the Venezuela-funded pro-Correa Ecuador TV network, and because he feels he would be in danger in his country.

In an interview, Palacio laughed when I mentioned that Assange—who has been holed up at the Ecuadoran Embassy in London for more than two months—has praised Ecuador as "a courageous Latin American nation" that "took a stand for justice" by giving him diplomatic protection. Ecuador remains a "dictatorship," Palacio said.

Palacio said the Ecuadoran president is seeking to outgrow his image as a follower of Chavez and Castro. His ego is too big, and he resents having been treated as a second-tier figure in the ALBA bloc, Palacio says.

When Correa took office in 2007, Chavez publicly referred to him as "this boy," Palacios says. And Cuba saw Palacios as a somewhat erratic, undependable ally, to the point that while Correa has visited the island at least five times, he was only granted an official visit once, he says.

Sensing there will soon be a leadership vacuum in the ALBA bloc, Correa has been stepping up his international showmanship in recent months, Palacio said.

In April, Correa managed to become the star in absentia of the 34-country Summit of the Americas with President Barack Obama in Cartagena, Colombia, by boycotting the event.

Then, in June, Correa was the only foreign leader who showed up at the Organization of American States annual foreign ministers meeting in Cochabamba, Bolivia, where he made headlines with incendiary speeches against the OAS Human Rights Commission, which had criticized his country's rights abuses.

In July, Correa asked the Olympic Committee if he could parade in front of his country's team at the inauguration ceremony of the London Summer Olympics, the Spanish EFE news agency reported. Correa's petition was rejected by the Committee. Now, Correa is trying to grab international headlines by posing as a champion of the oppressed by granting Assange asylum, Palacio says.

My opinion: Palacio plays a little bit loose with words when he calls Correa a "dictator." For the time being, Correa is a narcissist populist leader who spends too much time trying to grab absolute powers, and too little to improve his country's living standards. Yet, Ecuador is not Cuba—yet.

Still, opinions such as Palacio's don't justify Correa's all-out attacks on press freedoms. As Time magazine's Tim Padgett rightly pointed out in a recent article, Obama is attacked daily by critics who claim—against all available evidence—that he was not born in the United States, and yet he's not going around shutting down Fox News and other right-of-center media, or suing critical columnists.

Palacio is right when he suggests that Correa's pretension to be seen as a champion of justice could hardly be more hypocritical. The very fact that Correa is saying that he wants to grant Assange asylum in Ecuador—a country with an increasingly unrealizable justice system—claiming that the Australian hacker would lack fair-treatment "guarantees" in Sweden, one of the world's most respected legal systems, is a joke.

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A farewell to alms

By JAIME R. VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Former PSS teacher Jaime Vergara now teaches at Hang Gong Hang Tian Da Zue, Shenyang Aerospace University and is currently traveling in north Inner Mongolia in the prefecture of Hulunbeier.

One of my brothers in Hawaii lowered the boom on us early this year. While visiting our mother in Honolulu at her apartment which doubles as a "parking" space for my brother's numerous belongings, I asked if he had a belt and a couple of pants to spare for my sporting convenience. He is a Ralph Lauren, Hollywood Polo shop card-carrying customer, and being single, he is attire particular, as well as bid on lots of used fashion attire at auctions, so his collection is nothing to sneer at.

That was when he dropped the bomb: "When are you going to be self-sufficient."

Now, mind you, I am big in participatory democracy and efforts to wean dependency away from the clutches of entitlement, so self-sufficiency, and self-confidence, and self-reliance, is huge in our repertoire of stated developmental goals for individuals and social groups.

To be asked when we were going to follow our own mantra was thereby unsettling. I never really thought of myself as not being self-sufficient until I realized a dependency habit actually developed in our career and lifestyle.

For four decades, we were an ordained cleric with the United Methodist Church. The practice of tithe from old Judea supported Levites to perform symbolic functions of tribes, was carried over to Christendom where priesthood class relied on covenantal giving. The Reformation pastors put the support and benefits under the income side of the ledger, giving it a patina of financial stability, and that's where we came on the wagon. We did not get hitched into the clerical collar for that purpose, but the methodical ways of Wesley's followers in America deliberated a lot on the matter at various conference levels.

Coming from a country where, if one scratched a Protestante, you find a Mediterranean Catholic, my family did not quite make it over the hump of alms and charity in the old *paroquia* to the side of budgetary allocations in the parish. We were still beholden to the grace of charity. But my Dad's remuneration where we were assigned, was more in-kind than cash, and though the rice, fish, meat, and saluyot were enough to keep flesh and bone together, it did not pay for books and tuition fee at school.

My Mom used to rise early in the morning to meet the fleet that came back from fishing so she could offer wholesale price to the weary fishers, get herself a sacksful of ice and tin containers, mix the lot and transport them 200 kms upriver the Rio de Cagayan in the valley. At destination, she would look up her suki (frequent customer) to unload her merchandize, get usually double her money, and then head back home. And that's how the parson's kids managed to annually get a new set of wardrobe on their birthdays.

Self-support was, thus, not a foreign concept in our house. What the offering plates were short at providing, my Mom's old chutzpah delivered. Thus, by 6th grade, I was selling sticky rice goodies, delivering newspapers, and shining shoes.

Upon review of our lifestyle in recent years, it is true that we played off the po'boy image among siblings and loved ones, acting as if we had the right to utilize their means, either on request, or just on the older-sibling-grab that I might have overdone in the case of one of our brothers.

Thus, this year, we resolved not to live off (not too much, anyway) the means of kin and loved ones, willingly generous or otherwise, but more importantly, to live off our means. Having been an active party to the credit ethos of the American economy where we spent on the promise of possible future earnings, we contributed to the profits of financial institutions whose assets derive from the value of consumers' borrowings.

We became fiscally conservative, not a personal trait usually practiced by a political liberal. That's probably where our political dichotomy fails, for the real conservative understands that the baby (what works) need not be thrown with the bath water, nor, as this liberal does, should we cower with fear and fail to act on what is necessary just because one cannot see an immediate balance of the budget!

But, while a farewell to alms is personally in effect, a farewell to arms is not on the horizon anytime soon. "Arms" that we Americans extend to destabilize unfriendly regimes are not fading away. NoKor and China are favored targets. ABC's rumor-mongering during the London Olympics that North Korea's athletes head to labor camps if they fail to claim a medal, repeated in media, and the 15-year-old Chinese gold medal swimmer accused of being under the influence of drugs with no shred of evidence, are examples.

We read of U.S.-trained mercenary crossing over from Columbia into Venezuela with no evident intent other than foment dissension, and oriental Aoki of the Black Panthers who armed the brothers in their heyday is now fingered as an FBI informant on a hearsay. The length by which official arm extends to abuse and accuse, is endless.

We are sticking to our "arm" as the all-embracing care for the other, our life's vocation, though now, we shall do so sans alms.

Another blow to fragile stability in Tajikistan

By LOLA OLIMOVA
The Institute for War & Peace Reporting

Lola Olimova is the Tajikistan editor for The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict.

Khorog, the main town in Tajikistan's remote southeastern Badakhshan region, remained tense on Aug. 23 as protests entered a second day following the death of an influential local leader.

Many demonstrators stayed outside the local government offices overnight, after more than 3,000 gathered the previous day demanding that officials account for the death of Imomnazar Imomnazarov in an attack on his home earlier on Aug. 22.

Neighbors told local media that they heard the sound of a grenade blast followed by automatic gunfire. Imomnazarov's brother and members of his entourage were reported to have been wounded in the attack and taken to hospital.

Khorog has been tense since July, when it was left badly scarred by gun battles between government troops and supporters of a rebellious local frontier guards officer, Talib Ayombekov. When Ayombekov refused to surrender suspects in the killing of a top regional security official, central government ordered thousands of soldiers into the region to capture him and his men.

The ensuing fighting left 48 people dead. Ayombekov's group was not defeated outright despite being massively outnumbered by government troops, and instead a ceasefire was reached in late July and a process of negotiations started.

Imomnazarov's role in all this is unclear. Like Ayombekov, he was part of the anti-government guerrilla force during the 1992-97 civil war, before returning to civilian life. As violence broke out this July, the authorities named Imomnazarov as well as Ayombekov and others as leading figures in organized crime in Badakhshan, involved in smuggling narcotics and other items across the nearby Afghan border.

The attack on Imomnazarov raised suspicions amongst locals who believed government special forces were responsible, although officials have denied this.

An unnamed security source told the Russian news agency Interfax that it was not in the Tajik authorities' interest to kill Imomnazarov, as they were trying to restore peace and stability in Badakhshan. Ikrom Umarov, an interior ministry official, dismissed the allegations as entirely unfounded in an interview with RFE/RL radio's Tajik service.

The attack also caused outrage as Imomnazarov had earlier sustained serious injuries and had difficulty walking, suggesting he did not pose a serious threat at that point. The authorities say Imomnazarov's sustained these injuries during separate turf wars between local criminals, rather than in the fighting with government forces.

The interior ministry has launched an investigation into his death.

Imomnazarov's killing is a setback to efforts to restore peace to this isolated region, whose population differs from the rest of the country in language, culture and faith _ people here are Ismaili Muslims, not Sunnis like most Tajiks.

The cease-fire and subsequent talks were arranged by a mediating team consisting of local officials, residents and Ismaili figures including local clerics and representatives of the Aga Khan Foundation, which has worked to develop the region over the past two decades. The Aga Khan himself, who wields considerable influence as the spiritual leader of Ismailis worldwide, played a key role in persuading the rebels to accept the truce and urging the wider community to support peace efforts.

The community had responded to this, posting volunteers to help maintain security. Most importantly, Ayombekov and another local strongman Mamadbokir Mamadbokirov, surrendered and began cooperating with the police.

A high-ranking official who recently returned to the capital Dushanbe after visiting Khorog said it had been difficult to agree the ceasefire because local residents were so angry with the government. The negotiations would be even harder following Imomnazarov's death, he said.

"It took a great deal for us to get them on our side. It's hard to predict what will happen next," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Since Imomnazarov's death, there have been reports of local residents putting back some of the road blocks removed when the July fighting died down.

Negotiations have also resulted in a disarmament process in which over 500 weapons have been turned over to the authorities.

A supporter of Imomnazarov, speaking on condition of anonymity, told IWPR he believed this might have been premature, noting, "The guys have surrendered almost all their weapons, and we're left with hardly any firearms to fight with."

One local resident who gave his name as Alimardon told IWPR how the latest demonstration unfolded. On hearing news of Imomnazarov's death, crowds gathered in Khorog on Aug. 22 to demand that authorities end the use of force and withdraw troops from Badakhshan.

When no one came out to speak to the protesters, they attempted to enter the local government building but were halted by warning shots from police guards. Two people were shot in the legs, local media reported.

The crowd swelled as residents of nearby villages arrived to attend the Imomnazarov's funeral, which took place later the same day.

Provincial governor Qodir Qosim and Interior Minister Sherali Khairullaev subsequently met with protesters, and agreed to withdraw troops deployed in and around Khorog and ultimately to shift them out of the region altogether.

The withdrawal seems to have been set in motion, with 200 troops reported to have moved out, while the number of police checkpoints erected during the fighting has been reduced.

Alimardon said the protest would continue until government troops left Badakhshan.

In Khorog, residents are worried that things could take another turn for the worse. A 55-year-old woman from the town said Imomnazarov had many allies in neighboring Afghanistan who might wish to avenge his death.

"God forbid we get people shooting from the Afghan side of the border," she said.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. Northeast winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲86 ° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

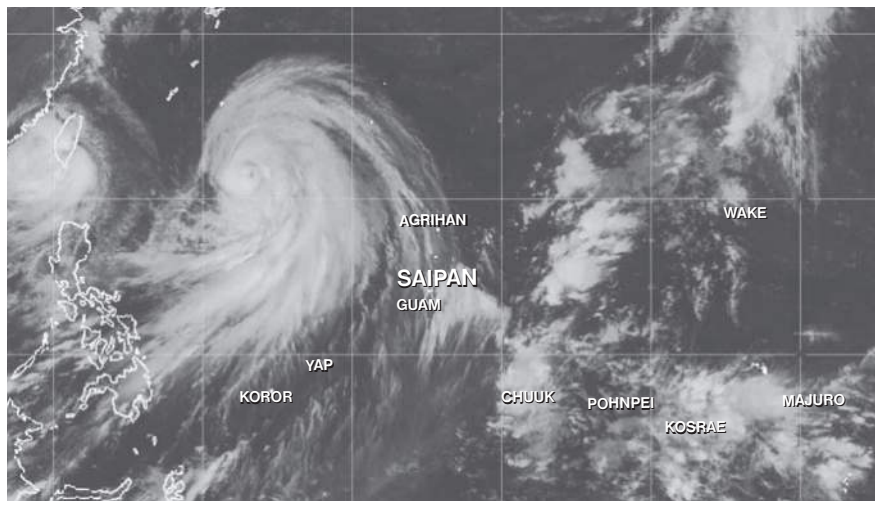
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼75
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼51
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼61
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲92	▼82
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼75
London	Rain	▲67	▼56
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲83	▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼79
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼69
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲93	▼77
Paris	Windy	▲73	▼57
Pusan	Mosty Sunny	▲86	▼78
Rome	Sunny	▲92	▼72
Salem	Sunny	▲79	▼50
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼52
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼73
Tokyo	Sunny	▲91	▼76
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼72

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon bolaven (16w) is centered 555 miles west-southwest of iwo to island near 21N133E, and moving northwest at 7 mph with maximum sustained winds of 120 mph. Heavy rain and isolated thunderstorms are occurring around the center of Bolaven between 19N and 24N from 131E to 135E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen farther east and south of Bolaven within 90 miles of a line from 23N137E to 20N138E to 14N130E. Converging monsoonal southwest winds southeast of Bolaven are causing similar conditions north of Yap within 75 miles of a line from 17N138E to 12N135E. For more detailed information on typhoon Bolaven, see bulletins issued by the national weather service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM and the joint typhoon warning center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. A surface trough reaches northward from 2N153E through a weak circulation centered just north of Chuuk near 9N150E to end east of Saipan at 16N150E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:10 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
8:49 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
4:01 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
8:48 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Saturday	12:58 PM	-
Sunday	1:58PM	12:36 AM
Monday	2:54PM	1:35 AM
Tuesday	3:47PM	2:35 AM
Wednesday	4:36PM	3:34 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Church 360
Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building).
Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116
Celebration Service: Sunday at 10:15am
Prayer Fellowship: Wednesday at 6:00pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Living Hope Church of the Nazarene
Isa Drive, I-Denni Hill across from Ponderosa Heights
Bible Studies for all ages: Sunday at 10:00 am
Worship: Sunday at 11:00 am
Pastor Dave Bucher, 256-1142

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 25, 1999

Tinian Dynasty seeks dismissal of $10M lawsuit
Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino is seeking the dismissal of the $10 million lawsuit filed by a pregnant employee who had a miscarriage after slipping off the floor in the hotel's kitchen area. Anthony Long, attorney for Tinian Dynasty, said the claim for damages sought by Benselin John was covered by the Workers Compensation program, which he said is "the plaintiff's exclusive remedy under the CNMI law." John was employed as a kitchen steward assigned at the hotel staff canteen. She was tasked with dish washing and cleaning the kitchen area.

Northwest asks court to junk civil action suit
Northwest Airlines asked the Superior Court yesterday to throw out the civil action suit filed by a passenger who had complained about his aborted trips to Tokyo and Seattle, saying a trial court judge had already ruled against the same case last month. In a motion for dismissal filed by lawyer John Osborn, Northwest said the complainant, Iosefatu Tuigamala, had already filed a small claims action against the airlines based on the same transaction which he has raised again in his new civil action suit. Associate Judge John Manglona dismissed Iosefatu's small claims action last July 21. Northwest said Iosefatu could have appealed Manglona's decision, but opted not to do so until the period for appeal expired.

Aug. 25, 2000

CPA asked to bring concerns to US govt
The Commonwealth Ports Authority has been asked to bring its concerns to the United States government In order for the Japan Ministry of Transport to include Saipan in the list of destinations for the second, short runway at the Narita Airport. Japan International Air Transport Director Ryuhei Maeda explained that existing regime of international civil aviation requires that the safety of operation must be supervised by the aeronautical authorities of the country to which the airline belongs. This, even as Saipan falls within the unrestricted 1500 nautical miles radius. IATA publication disclosed that the island is about 1461NM away from Narita, Japan.

Enron, CUC legal counsels' 'close links' questioned
Lawyers for two power firms edged out from a final negotiation on the 80-megawatt power plant have asked the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to hire new outside legal counsels, citing potential "conflict of loyalties" with project contractor Enron. Steven P. Pixley, attorney for the Tomen Consortium, and Rexford C. Kosack, for Saipan Power Partners, expressed concern over retention of Fulbright & Jaworski to assist CUC in closing a deal with the Houston-based conglomerate as well as in settling pending protests. The international law firm—with offices worldwide and its base in Houston, Texas, the two claimed—was hired last month by the CUC board to work on the much-delayed project. Its Hong Kong office is expected to provide legal services to the government-owned utility firm.

Aug. 25, 2002

Bank income soars in second quarter
Bank income jumped 71 percent in the second quarter of the year spurred largely by loan payment collection, even as interest expense during the same period ballooned by 83 percent, a government report disclosed. The Banking Division of the CNMI Department of Commerce, in a quarterly report, revealed that interest income of all private banks operating in the Northern Marianas grew from $5.13 million in the January-March 2002 period to $8.08 million in the following quarter. At the same time, expenses paid largely on deposit interests climbed by $1.77 million in the second quarter of the year to $3.9 million from the quarter earlier of $2.13 million.

Microloan scope widens
If there is one thing the Commonwealth should be happy about it is the implementation of the Microloan program in the CNMI, which aside from its economic benefits, is the increased participation of women and persons with disabilities in entrepreneurship. Executive Director MaryLou S. Ada disclosed two persons with disabilities, along with an army of local women entrepreneurs, have submitted application under the Microloan Program. Of the 14 microloans sealed by the CNMI government's lending arm in financial year 2000, six were issued to women-owned businesses. The Microloan Program, implemented through the assistance of SBA, was extended to the Northern Marianas to help entrepreneurs come up with the needed capital to start up a business.

Maharlika

Kanoa Resort donates 1K shirts to LBC, UFO drive

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kanoa Resort Saipan responded to calls for assistance for flooding victims in the Philippines by donating over 1,000 unused shirts to the donation drive sponsored by the LBC Foundation, the charitable arm of the global cargo forwarding company.

Executives and other officials of Kanoa Resort Saipan and its owner, Tan Holdings presented the Saipanda-bearing shirts contained in 12 boxes to LBC Mabuhay Saipan manager Valentino Gatchalian and United Filipino Organization officers and members in a brief ceremony yesterday at the hotel lobby in Susupe.

Kanoa Resort's Cory Quing said it was her idea to donate the shirts to residents in and around Metro Manila in the aftermath of torrential monsoon rains that caused widespread flooding in the nation's capital and nearby provinces.

» As hotel heeds PH flooding victims' call for help

"We believe that a lot of people will benefit from this donation which will be sent to the Philippine Red Cross for distribution to the flooding victims through the generosity of LBC," Eli Arago, Tan Holdings senior vice president, told *Saipan Tribune*.

LBC branches have agreed to receive in-kind donations and ship them for free to help the flood-stricken residents in the northern Philippines. Gatchalian disclosed that LBC Mabuhay Saipan has already collected about 10 boxes worth of clothes.

"We thank Kanoa Resort and Tan Holdings for the donated shirts which will certainly aid those who were affected by the heavy rains and floods in the Philippines," he said.

But Gatchalian noted that donations of food items such as noodles and canned goods are more needed at this time as advised by the Philippine Red Cross, which will be the consignee once the boxes are sent to the Philippines.

He said LBC Mabuhay Saipan, which has branches in Susupe and Garapan, will continue to accept in-kind donations until the end of the month, as they are scheduled to ship them out by Sept. 5.

President Bong Malasarte of the United Filipino Organization, which supports the donation drive, thanked Kanoa Resort and Tan Holdings for heeding the humanitarian plea for flooding victims in the Philippines and encouraged the community to share what they can to help those who are in need.

Although UFO's fundraising drive already concluded, Malasarte said they will still continue to receive donations for a few days since their group members in Manila will hand over the money to the Philippine Red Cross by Tuesday.

"We can help more people if we all work together and pool resources together," he added.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Executives of Kanoa Resort Saipan and Tan Holdings present over 1,000 shirts to LBC Mabuhay Saipan and United Filipino Organization officials in a ceremony at the hotel lobby in Susupe yesterday morning. The shirts were donated to benefit the victims of the recent monsoon rains that caused flooding in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

PH ambassador to US urges Filipinos to register for 2013 election

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With only a few months to go before the May 2013 elections, Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose L. Cuisia Jr called on all qualified Filipinos in the U.S., including the CNMI, to register as overseas absentee voters.

Echoing Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert F. del Rosario's appeal, Cuisia asked for "your invaluable support to make our political exercise more meaningful by ensuring the widest participation of Filipinos overseas."

"The Philippine Embassy and Consulates General in the U.S. continue to exert efforts to reach out to our kababayan and impress on them the significant role that they play in molding our country's future by choosing the leaders of our nation," he wrote in his Aug. 13 public letter addressed to "Dear Kababayan."

In 2003, the Philippine Congress passed the Overseas Absentee Voting or OAV Act which provides for a system for citizens of the Philippines currently residing or working abroad to vote in an election.

Officially known as Republic Act No. 9189, the law was enacted to ensure equal opportunity to all qualified citizens of the Philippines abroad in the exercise of their fundamental right to cast their ballot.

Cuisia Jr.

Cuisia said the number of registered absentee voters in the U.S., including the CNMI and Guam, grew in the last three elections held. From 10,540 in 2004, the figure rose to 20,992 in 2007, reflecting an increase of almost 100 percent. By 2010, the number climbed up to 49,059.

In the Northern Marianas alone, a total of 7,169 individuals registered as overseas absentee voters, some 47 percent of whom or 3,341 voted during the May 2010 national elections.

This ranked the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan at the top two spot in terms of the number of overseas absentee voters among consulates and embassies throughout the U.S., and placed 10th around the world.

"We are hopeful that we will receive the support and enthusiasm of all Filipinos in America," added Cuisia.

'Consulate shutdown a factor'

Consul General Medardo G. Macaraig noted in an interview, however, that the impending shutdown of the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan will impact the overseas absentee voting registration conducted by the office.

The last day that the Consulate will remain open to the public is on Oct. 31.

"It is certainly a factor," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that they are already expecting a drop in their registration numbers.

Administrative officer Jose M. Sto. Domingo disclosed that since opening the overseas absentee voting registration in November 2011 up to Aug. 15, 2012, a total of 304 individuals have already registered and become eligible to vote in next year's elections.

He said this number reflects those who failed to register for the 2010 election, including newly qualified voters.

Those who may register are qualified Filipino citizens who intend to vote abroad or who will be abroad on election day; Filipino citizens who will be turning 18 years old on or before the day of the election; dual citizens who have re-acquired or retained their Philippine citizenship under the Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003; and immigrants or permanent residents who execute an Affidavit of Intent to Return upon filing of an application for registration as overseas absentee voter.

Registration requirements for overseas absentee voting are a valid Philippine passport and an accomplished OAV Form No. 1, which can be obtained at the consulate or downloaded and printed from the Commission on Election website, www.comelec.gov.ph.

To register or for more information, visit the Consulate at the 5th floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe or call 234-1850.

Free 3rd quarter health screening set on Sept. 2

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General is scheduled to host the 3rd Quarter 2012 Free Health Screening for Filipino workers next Sunday, Sept. 2.

This will be the last quarterly health screening before the Consulate shuts down after Oct. 31, its last day of providing services to the Filipino community in the Commonwealth.

» Last screening before Consulate shutdown

"However, Consulate hopes that with spirit of volunteerism in the true spirit of Filipino bayanihan in Saipan, the Filipino Community members shall continue this endeavor to reach and serve even in a modest way the medical needs of fellow Filipinos on the island," Consul General Medardo Macaraig said in a statement.

Registration for the event, to be held at the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe, will start at 6:30am while the actual conduct of the activity will be from 7am to noon.

Medical services to be provided during the health screening include blood pressure, blood sugar, and vision check-ups.

Those who will avail of the blood sugar check-up are asked to refrain from any solid or liquid intake at midnight prior to actual testing or until after blood samples have been obtained at the event.

Brief lectures on how to prevent hypertension and diabetes are usually given at the health screening.

In an interview, Macaraig noted the importance of having these quarterly health screenings available for the Filipino community as it helps them monitor if their blood sugar and blood pressure levels are steadily climbing, thus warning them and allowing them to take precautionary measures to avoid more serious conditions.

"There is value to the health records that we maintain for our quarterly health screenings, that is why we are planning on inviting our medical volunteers and other Filipino groups to attend an informal meeting following the last health screening," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The meeting, he said, aims to coordinate plans on how the regular health screenings can be continued even with the closure of the Consulate.

According to Macaraig, their medical volunteers are willing to take on the responsibility but there are considerations that need to be addressed, including venue for the event.

The free health screening program is a joint collaboration of the Consulate with the Philippine Overseas Labor Office and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, with the cooperation of the Filipino Volunteer Medical Team CNMI Pharmacist Association, Hardt Eye Clinic, and other volunteers from the Filipino community.

Confetti, long queues for Robredo in Manila

By JAMIE ELONA, KAREN BONCOCAN, MATIKAS SANTOS
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—President Benigno Aquino III led the arrival honors for the late Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo in Malacanang on Friday.

Robredo's funeral cortege, which arrived at the Villamor Airbase around 10 a.m., reached the Palace around 11:30 a.m.

A 19-gun salute was conducted as part of the state funeral prepared for the late Cabinet official.

The casket will lie in state and will remain in Kalayaan Hall until Sunday morning.

Robredo's wife lawyer Leni Robredo and daughters Aika, Patricia and Jillian, his elder brother Butch, and other relatives were present.

Aquino was accompanied by Vice President Jejomar Binay, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr., and honorary pallbearers Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, Transportation and Communications Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas, Cavite Representative Joseph Abaya, Harvey Keh convenor of Kaya Natin, Alice Murphy of Urban Poor groups and Joan dela Cruz of the DILG. Other Cabinet officials, government staff and other groups were also present.

AP

Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, right, along with the family of the late Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo, is brought inside the Palace for a mass following a memorial tribute at Malacanang Palace grounds in Manila, Philippines Friday Aug. 24, 2012. Robredo died Saturday when his Piper Seneca chartered plane crashed off Masbate waters in central Philippines. The plane's pilot and co-pilot also died but his aide survived.

From Villamor Airbase, the convoy took Andrews Avenue, Old Airport Road, Roxas Boulevard, Padre Burgos Street, Finance Road, Ayala Bridge, and Solano Street to Malacanang.

Students, employees and other supporters lined up the streets along the route and waited for Robredo's convoy to pass by.

Fire trucks along Roxas Boulevard also shot water up to the sky when the convoy passed through it. Students, workers, and other citizens held yellow flags and threw confetti at the convoy.

Motorists also gave way to the funeral cortege as a sign of respect.

Chief Inspector Erwin Margarejo, MPD spokesman said Manila Police District officials and traffic aides from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority were deployed to maintain security and direct traffic along the route as to give way for the convoy.

Netizens have flooded social networking sites with messages of worry and encouragement for search and rescue operatives, following Robredo's fatal plane crash during the weekend.

Malacanang will open Robredo's wake to the public Friday night from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. until Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Robredo's remains will be brought to Naga City Sunday morning. He will be laid to rest on Tuesday.

Fleeing rebels clash with Filipino troops, 1 dead

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—More than 100 members of a breakaway Muslim rebel group fleeing from a two-week army offensive clashed anew with soldiers Thursday in new violence that killed a villager and wounded three others in the southern Philippines, officials said.

About 15 Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement fighters, who were backed by about 100 other gunmen positioned nearby, fired grenades on an army detachment along a highway in Pikit town in North Cotabato province early Thursday, sparking a gunbattle, army Lt. Col. Benjamin Hao said.

A soldier and a militiaman were wounded. The gunmen also fatally shot a villager in the head while he was using his cellular phone in front of his house, and the rebels may have killed him because they suspected he was calling authorities for help. A nurse working in a nearby hospital was wounded in the leg by stray gunfire, police said.

The new rebel group broke off last year from the larger Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which is engaged in peace talks with the Philippine government. The rebel faction opposes years of Malaysian-brokered negotiations and wanted to continue waging a bloody rebellion for an independent homeland for minority Muslims in the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines.

The breakaway rebels attacked several army camps two weeks ago in southern Maguindanao province, near North Cotabato, sparking an army offensive and sporadic clashes that have killed four soldiers and scores of rebels. The large group of rebels in Pikit may have been looking for food and refuge after their Maguindanao encampments were captured by army troops, Hao said.

Doctor of ex-president Arroyo flip-flops

» Cardiologist faces ethics inquiry, apologizes

By KRISTINE L. ALAVE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The cardiologist of former President and now Pampanga Representative Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has apologized after being scolded by the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) for publicly saying that she needed immediate cervical spine surgery and that she should get it abroad because there were no specialists here who could handle the operation.

Dr. Leo Olarte, an orthopedic surgeon and a PMA governor, said in a separate interview that Dr. Roberto Anastacio might have broken the organization's code of ethics by recommending treatment for Arroyo even though he was not a bone expert.

"You should stick to your field, especially in sensitive cases," Olarte said.

Asked if Anastacio's statement to the committee meant that he admitted being wrong in saying Arroyo needed surgery abroad as soon as possible and that there were no specialists who could handle the operation here, Olarte replied: "Exactly. He said he did not advise surgery in the US."

Dr. Mike Aragon, PMA spokesman, said in a phone interview Thursday that the organization's ethics committee called Anastacio on Wednesday night to explain his statements to the press last week that Arroyo had no choice but to go abroad for cervical spine surgery.

Aragon said the PMA ethics committee questioned Anastacio to determine if he had violated the organization's rules. Anastacio's questioning lasted till midnight, Aragon said.

Anastacio could not be contacted for comment on Thursday.

Dangerous condition

Anastacio called a news conference on August 17 and told reporters that the titanium brace that had been implanted in Arroyo's neck had shifted, blocking her air and food pathways.

The condition, Anastacio said, was dangerous, as it could cause cardiac arrest and "sudden death."

When asked by reporters if Arroyo's condition was life-threatening, Anastacio firmly replied, "Yes."

He said, however, that he ordered Arroyo discharged from Makati Medical Center (MMC) but advised her to seek surgery in the United States or Austria.

He explained that Arroyo's condition needed a "complete support structure" of specialists used to "repetitive reconstruction."

Arroyo is suffering from cervical spondylosis, a degenerative condition of the cartilage and bones of the neck caused by the chronic erosion of the cervical spine.

She has had three surgeries since July 2011.

Anastacio said the team of experts that Arroyo needed to handle her fourth operation—composed of a surgeon, neurophysiologists, biomedical engineers and medical researchers—was not available in the Philippines.

Unauthorized statements

On August 18, Olarte challenged Anastacio's statements and criticized MMC for allowing the press conference.

The MMC responded quickly, denying it had sanctioned Anastacio's news conference, adding that his statements were his own.

Marc Funelas, MMC chief for corporate communication, said the press conference was not held at MMC but in a restaurant across the hospital.

Apology accepted

Aragon and Olarte disclosed the questioning of Anastacio before the PMA ethics committee on Thursday.

Olarte said Anastacio apologized to the PMA for stating that Arroyo needed to have an operation abroad as soon as possible and saying that the country had no specialists who could handle the former President's surgery.

Anastacio, according to Olarte, told the ethics committee that he did not mean to malign his Filipino colleagues and that he spoke out of his expertise.

Arroyo

Aragon said Anastacio told the PMA that he was "sorry."

"He promised that it will not happen again," Aragon said. "He apologized for what he said," Olarte said. "He said he was misinterpreted by the media."

He said Anastacio explained to the ethics committee that he did not advise Arroyo to go to the United States for surgery and that he only mentioned Austria because of recent findings he had read in a medical journal that Austria had breakthrough research regarding Arroyo's condition.

The PMA accepted Anastacio's apology, Olarte said.

Who paid the bill?

The ethics committee also asked Anastacio for information about his press conference, Olarte said.

Anastacio, he said, told the committee that he did not know who paid for the bills at the restaurant where the briefing was held.

Reacting to the seeming urgency of Arroyo's condition as described by Anastacio, Malacañang said on August 18 that it would consult an independent medical expert to evaluate her condition before deciding whether to allow her to travel abroad.

The government has brought electoral sabotage, breach of ethics and plunder charges against Arroyo, who now holds her Pampanga district's seat in the House of Representatives.

The Pasay City Regional Trial Court has granted Arroyo bail in the electoral sabotage case, but ordered her not to leave the country.

Not life-threatening

In challenging Anastacio's statements on August 18, Olarte said Arroyo did not need immediate surgery and that her condition was not life-threatening.

Olarte said Arroyo could have another surgery only after her bone had become stable after enough bone growth.

Arroyo is 65 years old and at that age, Olarte said, bone growth takes about a year. Olarte said the surgery that Arroyo needed was a simple process and there were many surgeons here who could handle it.

'Comfort level'

But one of Arroyo's allies in the House, Minority Leader Danilo Suarez, said Thursday that her "comfort level" should be considered in deciding where she should get surgery.

"She's been operated here three times already and these were not successful," Suarez said by phone. "If you open her up for the fourth time and it's not successful, what's next?"

Suarez said seeking expert opinion abroad was a good idea.

He said the House minority had no plans of withdrawing a resolution asking for an objective review of Arroyo's condition.

The resolution does not categorically call for allowing Arroyo to seek medical attention abroad, as that, according to Suarez, should be decided by medical authorities.

"What we just want is that there must be some action [on her condition]," he said.

Samu't Sari

NOT SO OLD

Aging Center congregate Meryalen Conrad prepares to take a bow after being hailed winner of the beatbox challenge at the 2012 Man'amko Talent Show held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center last Aug. 17.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Members of the audience dance with the *man'amko* on stage as they enjoy the 2012 Man'amko Talent Show held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

President Teresita Sorroza of the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council, second left, draws the winning tickets during the raffle draw for the 2012 Man'amko Talent Show on Aug. 17.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Rep. Joseph Palacios and Aging Center coordinator Walter Manglona wow the crowd with their musical talents during the 2012 Man'amko Talent Show on Aug. 17.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Aging Center coordinator Walter Manglona, center, is flanked by Ben B., right, and Tommy Boy Atalig as they sing "My Pickup Line" at the 2012 Man'amko Talent Show last Aug. 17.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

HOSPITAL CHALLENGES

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board member Anthony Aguon (center) gestures as he expresses his views on the present challenges of the public hospital to fellow board member Roy Rios (right) and CEO Juan N. Babauta (left) during a break in Friday's special board meeting.

THANK YOU

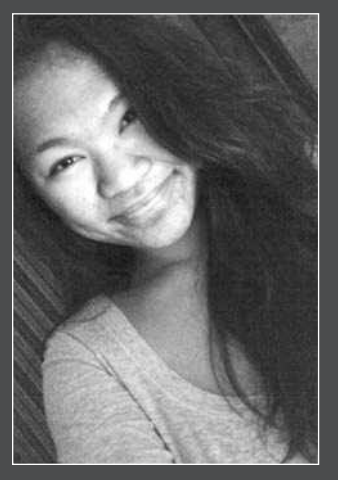
Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores presents a plaque of appreciation to Transpacific Group of Companies president Johnnie Fong for the support the group provided to the 67th Saipan Liberation Day Parade. The mayor was accompanied by Saipan Mayor's Office personnel, from right, Teri Camacho, fiscal and budget officer; Larissa Flores, human resources assistant; and Jeff Cabrera, procurement officer. Also present to accept the plaque are, from left, Edgar Deang, comptroller Foremost Foods Saipan and Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc.; Virgie Avendano-Woodruff, client services and office manager, Glimpses of Saipan; Glen D. Hunter, Saipan group business manager, Coca-Cola, Foremost, Subway Restaurants, and Foremost Scoops; Aileen Benavidez, IT staff and administrative assistant, Coca-Cola and Foremost; and Leilannie M. Salvani, administrative and human resources manager, Transpacific Group of Companies. The Transpacific Group of Companies comprises Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc., Foremost Foods Saipan, Subway Restaurants, Foremost Scoops, and Glimpses Advertising and Glimpses Publications.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Erin Sohn who will be 2 years old today. Belated happy birthday to John Sohn who celebrated his 7th birthday. May both of you enjoy your days with laughter and fun. Wish both of you the best for all your wonderful endeavors in life. We love you! Greetings from Mom and Dad.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Jodian Masga Sablan. May your day be filled with joy and happiness and many more to come, take a shot baby girl. We love you from your bro Randall, Mom, Dad, friends, and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 1st birthday to our little "King" Tatum Mamet M. Jones. You are the most precious gift that God ever sent to us. May your day be filled with lots of blessings, love, and happiness. We love you! From Daddy, Mommy, and the rest of the family.

Business

Court bans some Apple, Samsung products in SKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A South Korean court ruled Friday that technology rivals Apple Inc. and Samsung Electronics Co. both infringed on each other's patents, and ordered a partial ban of their products in South Korea.

The Seoul Central District Court ordered Apple to remove the iPhone 3GS, iPhone 4, iPad 1 and iPad 2 from shelves in South Korea, citing they infringed two of Samsung's telecommunications patents. The court also ruled that Samsung infringed one of Apple's patents related to the screen's bouncing back ability and banned sales of the Galaxy S2 and other products in South Korea.

Sales of devices recently released by Samsung and Apple—including the iPhone 4S and the Galaxy S3 smartphones—were not affected.

The court also ordered the two parties to pay monetary compensation to each other. Samsung must pay Apple 25 million won ($22,000) while Apple must pay its rival 40 million won.

The lawsuit is part of global, multibillion dollar fight between the world's two largest smartphone makers. The biggest stakes are in the U.S., however, where the two companies are locked in an epic struggle over patents and innovation in a federal court in San Jose, California.

Cupertino-based Apple sued Samsung in 2011 in the U.S., alleging that some of the South Korean company's smartphones and computer tablets are illegal knockoffs of Apple's iPhone and iPad. Samsung denies the allegations and argues that all companies in the cutthroat phone industry mimic each other's successes without crossing the legal line.

Apple is suing Suwon-based Samsung for $2.5 billion, making the case one of the biggest technology disputes in history. Jury deliberations began Wednesday after three weeks of testimony.

Days after Apple filed its suit in the U.S., Samsung filed a lawsuit on its home turf and in other countries, accusing Apple of breaching its telecommunications patents.

Applications for US unemployment aid up slightly

WASHINGTON (AP)—The number of people seeking first-time unemployment benefits rose a slight 4,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 372,000, evidence that the job market's recovery remains modest and uneven.

The Labor Department said Thursday that the four-week average, a less volatile measure, increased 3,750 to 368,000.

Applications are a measure of the pace of layoffs. When they fall consistently below 375,000, it generally suggests hiring is strong enough to lower the unemployment rate.

Applications have risen for two straight weeks. Some economists said that indicates that hiring in August may slow from July's solid gain of 163,000 jobs.

The increases "suggest ... that job growth continued in August, but at a slower rate than July's pop," said Jennifer Lee, an economist at BMO Capital Markets. "So job growth there shall be, but not strong enough."

Weak hiring may prompt the Federal Reserve to take more action to stimulate the economy, Lee said. At the Fed's last meeting, policymakers signaled that they were moving closer to launching another round of bond-buying, according to minutes released Wednesday. The goal of more bond purchases would be to lower longer-term interest rates to encourage more borrowing and spending.

Meanwhile, fewer people continue to receive benefits. The total fell to 5.6 million in the week that ended Aug. 4, the latest period for which figures are available. That's down about 110,000 from the previous week.

Some of that decline may have resulted from those out of work finding jobs. But many also likely exhausted all their benefits.

The economy and job growth have been improving a bit after falling into a midyear slump, though neither is particularly strong.

One area of improvement has been the housing market, which is slowly but steadily recovering. Sales of previously occupied homes rose 2.3 percent in July from June, the National Association of Realtors said Wednesday. Sales jumped more than 10 percent in the past year.

Other recent reports have contributed to the picture of a healing industry. Home prices are rising nationwide. And builders are growing increasingly confident because they're seeing more traffic from potential buyers. An index of builder confidence rose to its highest level in five years in August.

Builders responded by applying for the largest number of building permits in nearly four years last month. They broke ground on slightly fewer new homes in July than in June. But that was after the number of housing starts had reached a 3 1/2-year high in June.

Postal commission OKs 'junk mail' discount plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government body that oversees the U.S. Postal Service has approved a plan that gives one of the nation's largest direct marketers a postage discount on advertising flyers known as "junk mail."

The three-year deal approved by the Postal Regulatory Commission on Thursday is intended to boost use of the mail system by Valassis Communications Inc., which sends mass coupon mailings to homes under its RedPlum ad bundles.

The commission said the plan should add $4.7 million to $15.3 million in net benefit to Postal Service coffers over the course of the deal.

Many of the nation's newspapers opposed the plan, which gives a rate cut to their biggest competitor. The Newspaper Association of America said that for a meager benefit, about $1 billion in annual newspaper industry ad revenue would be put at risk because it would lure big advertisers away from its Sunday newspapers.

The NAA said it would appeal the decision.

"NAA believes this decision is contrary to law, and will challenge it immediately and vigorously," said NAA Chairman James Moroney, the publisher of The Dallas Morning News.

The commission dismissed the newspapers' damage estimate, saying in its order that "newspapers' claims of harm, while no doubt earnest, do not lend themselves to reasonable quantification."

Commission Chairman Ruth Goldway said in a statement that while the commission was "sympathetic" to the claims of market disruption, the policies of a postal reform law passed in 2006 "do not shield newspapers from the consequences of fair competition."

Livonia, Mich.-based Valassis applauded the decision, saying it was a "validation of this innovative proposal."

Valassis shares, which had closed down 25 cents at $24.75 on Thursday, rose 16 cents in after-hours trading to $24.91.

The dispute had put two traditional industries, buffeted by the Internet, on a collision course.

Use of the Postal Service is declining as more people turn to email, Facebook and Twitter to communicate. At the same time, print newspaper subscriptions and advertising have been falling due to a shift of readers to online outlets of news.

Nation

Romney promises energy independence by 2020

HOBBS, N.M. (AP)—Republican presidential contender Mitt Romney promised on Thursday to aggressively expand off-shore oil drilling along Virginia, North Carolina and the Gulf of Mexico, changing the subject from social issues like abortion and Medicare that have dominated the debate in the days before the critical Republican National Convention.

AP

Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney speaks during a campaign event at Watson Truck and Supply, Thursday, Aug. 23, 2012, in Hobbs, N.M.

Speaking to voters in the heart of New Mexico's oil and gas industry, Romney declared that his energy plans—which include drilling for oil in a federal Alaskan wildlife reserve—would create 3 million jobs and more than $1 trillion in new revenue. And he predicted complete "North American energy independence by 2020, a never-realized goal claimed by presidential candidates for decades."

"That means we produce all the energy we use in North America," Romney said, emphasizing an expansion of oil and gas over wind and solar production. "This is not some pie-in-the-sky kind of thing. This is a real achievable objective."

■■■

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Tropical Storm Isaac could force a shakeup of the security plans for the GOP convention in Tampa, because about half of the expected officers come from other parts of Florida and some could be forced to stay home for the storm, authorities said Thursday.

But Gov. Rick Scott said the Florida National Guard is ready to step in if needed to fill the gap.

More than 3,500 officers from 59 law enforcement agencies from around the state are scheduled to come to Tampa to patrol the streets as the convention opens Monday. About half would come from outside Hillsborough County and the city of Tampa.

■■■

President Barack Obama did not face voters on Thursday. Instead, he deployed a popular former president, Bill Clinton, to help convince a divided electorate that he simply needs more time to fix the nation's struggling economy. Clinton is expected to speak at the Democratic National Convention next month and play a prominent role in the final months before Election Day.

Without big donors, Akin seeks small handouts

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)—Abandoned by deep-pocketed national groups, Missouri Rep. Todd Akin is passing a collection plate among his remaining supporters, asking for a few dollars at a time in hopes of sustaining a Senate campaign threatened by his remarks about women's bodies and "legitimate rape."

Akin claimed Thursday to have taken in more than $100,000 during a two-day online fundraising drive that he portrayed as a grassroots effort to circumvent "party bosses" who demanded that he drop out. But the six-term congressman will need much more than that to replenish a campaign account already diminished by a hotly contested primary.

"It's very difficult, when you have the limited base we have in Missouri, to send emails out asking for $3 at a time," said Pat Thomas, secretary of the Missouri Republican State Committee who has worked as a coordinator for numerous candidates. "I don't know how to build a war chest to do that."

Akin now has to go forward without the firepower of well-funded political groups that had planned to pummel Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill with negative television ads.

If his money runs dry, Akin could confront a difficult choice: whether to end his candidacy or adopt a bare-bones strategy relying on social media and socially conservative activists to counter the millions of dollars of mass media advertising expected from McCaskill and her allies.

First, Akin has to repair his reputation with fellow conservatives and, according to Thomas, "get back to the point where people think you're credible."

ACROSS THE NATION

Autopsy: NJ boy, 2, alive before being decapitated

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—Autopsy results released Thursday show that a 2-year-old boy was alive before he was decapitated, and his mother, who authorities said killed him, died from a self-inflicted knife wound to the neck. Police found the body of 2-year-old Zahree Thomas in the family's Camden rowhouse early Wednesday. His head was in the freezer. His mother, Chevonne Thomas, stabbed herself in the neck minutes after placing a rambling, sometimes incoherent call to 911. Thomas told a dispatcher that she had stabbed her son. Thomas lost custody of the boy in 2010 after admitting to police that she smoked marijuana laced with the hallucinogenic drug PCP, blacked out and left Zahree alone in a car. She regained custody in April 2010 under an order signed by Judge Angelo DiCamillo of Camden County Superior Court's Family division, according to Tamara Kendig, a court spokeswoman.

Ill. police say teen held captive 2 years escapes

WASHINGTON PARK, Ill. (AP)—A teenage girl reported missing more than two years ago escaped from a home in southwestern Illinois where she said she was held captive and repeatedly sexually assaulted, police said Thursday. Police in Washington Park, a village next to East St. Louis, said the girl reported that she was raped by her captor, got pregnant and had a baby. In April 2010, St. Louis, Mo., police listed the girl as a missing or runaway juvenile. She was 15 when she disappeared. She escaped from the home in Washington Park earlier this week and went to police, saying her child was still in the house.

World

Paris backs Syria no-fly zone as fighting grows

BEIRUT (AP)—France signaled Thursday that it was prepared to take part in enforcing a partial no-fly zone over Syria, piling pressure on President Bashar Assad's embattled regime as it widens a major offensive against rebels in Damascus and surrounding areas.

French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian urged the international community to consider backing a no-fly zone over parts of Syria, but cautioned that closing the Arab nation's entire air space would be tantamount to "going to war" and require a willing international coalition that does not yet exist.

He told France 24 television that Paris would participate in a full no-fly operation if it followed international legal principles. But for now, he suggested that a partial closure—which U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Washington was considering—should be studied.

Syria's chief backer, Russia, meanwhile, said it was working closely with the Damascus government to ensure that its arsenal of chemical weapons stays under firm control and has won promises that it will not be used or moved.

In Syria, troops backed by tanks and helicopters broke into the Damascus suburb of Daraya, the scene of intense fighting over the last two days. At least 18 people were killed.

Across the country, at least 100 people died Thursday in shelling and clashes, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and the Local Coordination Committees.

The bloodshed coincided with the departure from the Syrian capital of the last of the United Nations military observers after their mission failed. The observers were part of a six-point peace plan by outgoing envoy Kofi Annan.

As the country slides deeper into civil war, activist groups now routinely report the deaths of anywhere between 100 and 250 people on a daily basis, but it is virtually impossible to verify these figures.

Residents of Damascus said troops were bombing Daraya and nearby Moadamiyeh from the Qasioun mountain overlooking Damascus.

"It's just another regular day in Damascus," said a resident of the city of 1.7 million, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals. "I woke up to the sound of explosions and it hasn't stopped since."

First Year Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of

Antonio Litulumar Kaipat

We, the family, humbly invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.

Mass of Intention will be offered at San Roque Church beginning on August 26, 2012 through September 02, 2012 at 6:00 a.m.

Holy Rosary will be said at 7:30 p.m. at the family residence in Piligru Ln., San Roque.

On the final day, Monday September 3, 2012 the anniversary mass will be offered at 6:00 p.m. at San Roque Church, followed immediately with the appreciation dinner to be served at the family residence.

Your prayers, thoughts and presence are sincerely appreciated.

Olomwaay, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Thank You

Celina Castro Kaipat,
Children and Families

Thousands of Afghan refugees in limbo in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Abdul Karim walked for nearly 12 hours to cross the border into Pakistan and escape the warlords who were raining rockets on his neighborhood in the Afghan capital Kabul. That was nearly two decades ago, when he was a young teenager. Since then, he's gotten married and raised six children, all born in Pakistan.

He is one of 1.7 million Afghan refugees who have been living in limbo in Pakistan for years as part of one of the world's largest and longest-running refugee crisis. But after 30 years of hosting Afghans, many Pakistanis are growing frustrated with the toll they say the refugee population is taking on their country, and pressure is mounting on the government to do something.

The Pakistani government is now weighing whether to remove their refugee status, a step that would increase the pressure on them to go home.

Most of the refugees can't fathom returning to Afghanistan any time soon. They may feel like outsiders in Pakistan, but they say their homeland is still too violent and desperately poor.

"Unless the Pakistani government forced us back to Kabul, I am in no mood to go there," said Karim. "There is no safety... We have nothing left there."

The Afghan population in Pakistan is the legacy of Afghanistan's repeated conflicts. Millions streamed across the border after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, the start of a decade-long war against the occupation. After the Soviets pulled out, the country was torn apart by fighting between warlords, and more Afghans fled. When the Taliban rose to power in 1996 their strict form of Sunni Islam further terrorized the population.

WORLD BRIEFS

Typhoon batters southern Taiwan with winds, rain

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A powerful typhoon made landfall in southern Taiwan before dawn Friday, toppling trees and dumping torrential rain that flooded farmlands before roaring out to sea. No casualties from Typhoon Tembin were immediately reported. Authorities had taken precautions, evacuating more than 3,000 people from mountainous, landslide-prone areas of Taiwan a day ahead of the storm. The Central Weather Bureau said Tembin landed in coastal Pingtung County at 5 a.m. (2100 GMT), packing winds of 155 kilometers (96 miles) per hour, before blowing out to the Taiwan Strait 2 1/2 hours later. Mindful of a devastating typhoon three years ago that took 700 lives, Taiwan's military readied thousands of soldiers equipped with rubber boats and amphibious vehicles to help with relief efforts in areas impacted by Tembin's fury.

Lawyer: Breivik won't appeal if declared sane

OSLO, Norway (AP)—Anders Behring Breivik's defense lawyers say the confessed mass killer won't appeal if he's sentenced to prison but he will challenge any ruling that declares him insane. Breivik's mental state will be the focus when the Oslo district court presents its judgment against Breivik on Friday for the bomb and gun attacks that killed 77 people in July last year. After speaking to Breivik on Thursday, defense lawyer Geir Lippestad said his client would accept a prison sentence and would only appeal if committed to psychiatric care. Breivik, who claims he is a "militant nationalist," said during the trial that being sent to an insane asylum would be the worst thing that could happen to him and accused Norwegian authorities of trying to cast him as sick to deflate his political views.

Hippo stuck in SAfrica swimming pool

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—A hefty hippo chased away from his herd at a South African game reserve has found a refreshing place to relax: the lodge's swimming pool. Now it's stuck there. The young hippopotamus plopped into the pool on Tuesday at the Monate Conservation Lodge north of Johannesburg. The pool is big enough for the hippo to swim but it's eight feet deep with no steps and "there's no way he can come out," lodge manager Ruby Ferreira told The Associated Press on Thursday. A game capture team will sedate the hippo and lift it out of the pool with a crane, said MuIsabel Wentzel of South Africa's National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Much of the water has already been drained to make the extraction easier. A veterinarian will be present during operation hippo extraction on Friday. Wentzel said the 4-year-old hippo's mother gave birth recently, and more dominant males forced him from the herd.

Young Style

Young immigrants may find college elusive

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO
AP EDUCATION WRITER

MIAMI (AP)— Araceli Cortes had made up her mind: After being brought to the U.S. as a child, graduating from high school and attending some college in California, she was going to return to Mexico to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor.

She quit her job, bought an airline ticket and reserved a seat to take a medical school entrance exam.

Then, a week before her departure, President Barack Obama announced that young illegal immigrants like Cortes would be given the chance to remain in the United States and obtain a work visa. Cortes canceled her ticket and decided to stay.

This week, she and thousands of other immigrants began the application process. But she and many other student immigrants could face some tough obstacles.

"It's not giving me much," Cortes, 20, said. "It's just a two-year permit."

Obama was clear in announcing the order: This was not a path to citizenship, but rather an opportunity to avoid deportation and work.

For the students who are illegal immigrants and have graduated from college, the new policy means they will have the opportunity to work in their field of study, something they could only do as independent contractors or unpaid interns before.

For younger immigrants like Cortes—as many as 65,000 of whom are estimated to graduate from high school each year—some barriers to earning a college degree will be removed. The main hurdle, however, will remain cost. Federal loans and grants, the largest source of aid for college students, require students to have a green card or U.S. citizenship.

"There's still going to be a challenge for these students to pursue higher education," said Deborah Santiago, cofounder and vice president for policy and research of Excelencia in Education. "I don't think the numbers are going to be high."

Children who are illegal immigrants have been guaranteed the right to a K-12 education since the 1982 Plyler v. Doe Supreme Court decision.

A growing number of those students are now entering adolescence and early adulthood. They speak English, are part of after-school clubs and sports, and have the same aspirations to attend college as their peers. Yet around the age of 16, they stop having the same opportunities. When most teens get a driver's license, a first job and start thinking about college, illegal immigrant students start to become aware of their status.

"They stay stuck while their friends are moving forward," said Roberto Gonzales, a sociologist at the University of Chicago. "And that has tremendous implications on their own ability to achieve any upward mobility, on issues of self-esteem and on emotional and mental well-being."

AP

Araceli Cortes, an illegal immigrant who wants to go to medical school, is shown at her home in the Los Angeles-area suburb of Canyon Country, Calif., Tuesday, June 26, 2012. Cortes had made up her mind to return to Mexico to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor. She quit her job, purchased an airline ticket and reserved a seat to take a medical school entrance exam. Then, a week before her departure, President Barack Obama announced that young illegal immigrants like Cortes would be given the chance to remain in the United States and obtain a work visa. Cortes canceled her ticket and decided to stay. But she's still having second thoughts.

The Plyler v. Doe ruling did not address higher education. Rather, individual states and colleges have set their own policies on whether to allow illegal immigrants to attend.

Among illegal immigrants who are high school graduates between the ages of 18 to 24, 49 percent are in or have attended some college, compared with 76 percent of legal immigrants and 71 percent of U.S.-born residents, according to a Pew Hispanic Center study of 2008 census data.

Jane Slater, who teaches English as a second language at a high school in Redwood City, Calif., said fewer than half of the students who are illegal immigrants at her school go to college.

"There's that sort of hopeless feeling of `Why go?'" she said.

The price of tuition and fees increased 439 percent between 1982 and 2007, while the median family income rose 147 percent, according to the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. Parent and student loans, grants and scholarships help the average student pay about 55 percent of the cost, according to a report by Sallie Mae, the largest private lender to students.

Students with no legal status in the U.S. have access to just a slice of those resources. Selected private scholarships are often very competitive because of the limited number available. In a few states, they also qualify for state aid. But in most, they end up having to pay significantly higher tuition. Only 12 states allow illegal immigrants to pay in-state rates.

The majority of those who do enroll attend community colleges but often can afford only one or two classes a semester, or may have to take breaks in order to work full time. That means it takes significantly longer for them to graduate.

Katharine Gin, co-founder and executive director for the Education for Fair Consideration, is optimistic more scholarships from corporations and other funders will become available.

"They were moved by their stories. They felt like they deserved things but said, `How can I justify putting money to these students when they cannot work in the end?'" Gin said. "I think that will change."

Cortes took AP classes in high school and was accepted to every University of California school she applied to. And while California is one of the states that allow illegal immigrants to pay in-state tuition, she said it was still too expensive. A private school offered her a $14,000 scholarship, but that would have covered only half the annual costs.

She decided to go to community college instead and found a full-time job as a cashier at a car wash to help pay. Like at many community colleges, the classes she needs to enroll in to study medicine—biology, chemistry—fill up quickly and to get in, she needs a higher credit standing. That means taking classes in other subjects, essentially paying for courses that will have little to do with her medical degree.

Frustrated, she started looking for other options. Her father, who lives in Mexico, helped her fill out the paperwork to apply for a medical school there, but because she canceled her plane ticket, she lost her seat for the exam and won't be able to take it again.

Cortes has read through dozens of news articles online and recorded Obama's speech on the White House lawn, watching it repeatedly and trying to figure out what to do.

"He was very specific in saying, Don't think the wrong way about this," she said. "This is nothing for residency or citizenship."

Cortes went to the Mexican Consulate, which put her in touch with an organization, Dream in Mexico, that helps students find educational opportunities in Mexico. She applied to El Tecnologico de Monterrey and is waiting for a reply.

If she gets accepted and is given a scholarship to cover her fees, she's leaning toward going, even though she applied to stay in this country.

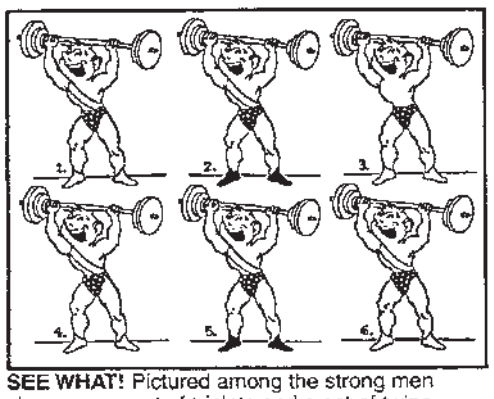
Cortes figures she'll save time, money and could still end up practicing medicine one day in the United States.

"As much as I want to stay here and be with my family, I have to think of the future," she said. "I have to think what's best for me."

Science Matters
Writing with your eyes
A new use of eye-tracking cameras could let Immobilized people communicate even if they cannot speak.
Eye-Link II video eye tracker
1 Infrared cameras watch person's eyes as she looks at video screen
2 Dot on screen leaves track as person moves her eyes
3 Track disappears after an instant, lets person form next word in same place
Video screen
Head band
Camera
Cable to computer
Clear words, never spoken
4 Computer interprets overlapping tracks (example at right), ignores eye's random jumps, or saccades
5 Displays message as a single line (examples below)
"eye on line hello"
© 2012 MCT
Source: Jean Lorenceau of Université Pierre et Marie Curie-Paris Graphic: Helen McComas

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



SEE WHAT! Pictured among the strong men shown are a set of triplets and a set of twins. See if you can find them.

ROMAN ESQ.! Three sisters, VIV, LIL and MIL, of the Numero family, have a brother whose name also consists of three Roman numeral letters. What is their brother's name? Remember, it has just three letters.

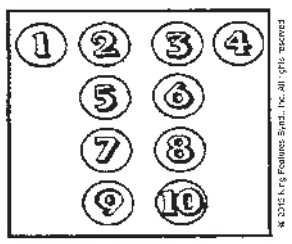
Their brother's name is VIC.

DROP KICK! A formation of 10 numbered circles provides us with three straight four-number rows. Alakazam, it is possible to remove one of these circles and to reposition one other so that three straight lines of four numbers remain.

How can this be done?

Remember, the idea is to remove one circle and move another so that three rows of four circles continue to remain.

Time limit is two minutes.



One way: Drop circle 10 and move circle nine to left (forming a diagonal row consisting of 4, 6, 7 and 9).

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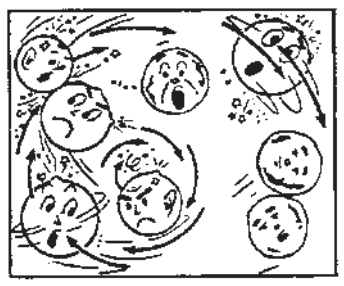

COLLIDING SPHERES?

WE can suppose that the heavy arrows shown here represent the orbital paths of a number of heavenly bodies. It would appear from the directions these arrows are traveling as though several collisions are imminent. But not to worry, this is just an illusion.

These heavy arrow lines continue in the directions indicated and do not meet. Each is in fact part of the circumference of an individual circle, and all of these circles are concentric. That is to say, all share a common center or pivotal point.

Use of a drawing compass will bear this out.

TONGUE TWISTS! Say fast: Betty Boop blew blue bubbles. Good grief, Gregory's gulping grapes.

Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It's still not known who made the following sage observation: "To succeed in politics, it is sometimes necessary to rise above your principles."

■ It was beloved American poet Robert Frost who made the following sage observation: "A bank is a place where they lend you an umbrella in fair weather and ask for it back when it begins to rain."

■ In 1938, Time magazine featured Adolph Hitler on the cover as its Man of the Year.

■ You might be surprised at some of the amazing feats that can be accomplished with the aid of modern medicine. In 2008, two women in India gave birth at the age of 70. With the aid of egg donation and postmenopausal in vitro fertilization, Rajo Devi Lohan gave birth to her only child, a girl. Charan Singh Panwar and his wife, Omkari Panwar, already had two daughters and five grandchildren, but they wanted a son. Using the same procedure, Omkari had twins, a boy and a girl.

■ The first time a toilet was ever seen on television was in the pilot episode of "Leave It to Beaver," in 1957.

■ The most common name in the world is Muhammed.

■ If you live in the South, home of huge roaches, you probably won't be surprised to learn that a cockroach can live for a week without a head. When the headless insect does finally die, it's from starvation, not from the loss of its head.

■ Those who study such things say that there are 45,000 chickens for every person on the planet.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "The reason that adulation is not displeasing is that, though untrue, it shows one to be of consequence enough, in one way or other, to induce people to lie."—Lord Byron

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MAGIC MAZE ● — MASTER

E P L I E B X U Q N J G D Z W
T T Q N K H D A X U R P M J G
D R A X V S S Q N K I F D A X
V T E Q O C M R J H F C A Y W
U R P C D H N L E J H F D B Z
X Y V N N O I T A T S K T R Q
O M A K A O K I U S R S H F D
B B Z P R L C Y W O D A E H V
T R E Q G O O N L P C T U H K
I H F W D C L A Z Y P S X Q C
W V U S R Q D O N M K J I H F

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Band	Head	Quarter	Station
Chess	Lock	School	Task
Concert	Old	Scout	Web
Grand	Pay	Spy	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		+		6
×		×		+	
	×		−		21
+		+		÷	
	−		×		8
12		17		3	

1 2 3 4 5 5 6 7 9

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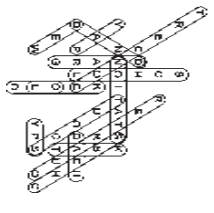
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



MASTER

GO FIGURE ANSWER

8	3	+	2	+	1
	÷		+		+
21	9	−	6	×	5
	+		×		×
8	4	×	5	−	7
	3		17		12

Finding affordable pet health care

Paw's corner by Sam Mazzotta

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Being a retiree trying to make ends meet, it's been hard to pay for health care for my two Corgis. Are there free clinics in my area where I can get my dogs' shots more cheaply?—Francis H., Oklahoma City, Okla.

DEAR FRANCIS: Low-cost and sometimes free vaccination clinics for pets are available at different times of the year across the country. These are held by public service agencies (such as county or city shelters), though some are privately sponsored. The clinics typically offer the immunizations required of dogs and cats (and sometimes other animals like ferrets) and license tags. Some also offer services like health checks and microchipping. Prices range from $5 to $25, on average.

The problem, of course, is finding one of these near you.

These days, the Internet is a great resource for locating announcements for low-cost clinics. However, not everyone has access to the Internet. And sometimes, the agencies or institutions sponsoring those clinics can't advertise widely, or are hard to locate in an Internet search.

In these cases, your best bet is to regularly check locally published newspapers and magazines that focus on your community for announcements about upcoming clinics. Another way is to call the local shelters, or the city or county government, to find out if any such clinics will be held in the near future.

I'll do my best to list upcoming clinics in as many locations as possible at www.pawscorner.com. In the meantime, keep checking with your local government or animal shelter for the next dates, times and locations of their low-cost clinics.

■ ■ ■

Send your questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. If your question or comment is used in the column, you'll receive a free copy of "Fighting Fleas," the newest booklet from Paws Corner!

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Backyard summer olympics

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

Share the spirit of the 2012 Olympic Games by testing your own athletic skills and sportsmanship with a mini Olympics in a park or your backyard. Invite friends, neighbors and cousins to join in.

Start by selecting several "events" to include in your summer games. If your kids enjoyed a favorite race or athletic competition in youth programs or camp, encourage them to teach it to the group. Be creative so that all abilities can be included in the spirited fun.

Here are some ideas as participants "go for the gold." On your mark. Get set. Go!

Relay races

Before you begin, tell the kids that the Olympic Torch Relay is a variation of relay races. Lighted on May 10, 2012, in Olympia, Greece, the Olympic Flame was carried and passed along by torch bearers until it eventually reached London for the official start of the 2012 Olympic Games.

A traditional relay race is done with teams of two or more people. It's a great lesson in teamwork, because all members must work together to finish.

Place two sets of "bases" at either end of the yard as markers for your race. Give one member of each team a balloon, which has to be patted into the air continually as the runner goes down the yard, around the far base and back to the starting base. On return, the balloon is patted to the next player, who repeats the activity until everyone has had a turn.

Running and swimming

Let judges watch as kids and their friends do a quick dash across the yard or a lap across a pool. Make time cards, and hold them up for each competitor, just like the real Olympics.

Jumping

Place a flat marker in the middle of the yard. Each competitor should get a running start and jump from the marker. Before the athlete moves from the landing spot, a designated judge should measure the distance from the marker to where the athlete landed. Scores can be given based on how far past the marker the person jumped.

Creative events

■ Give hula hoops a whirl and see how long participants can hula-hoop or how many they can keep going at one time.

■ See who can throw a paper airplane or wiffleball the farthest.

Share the gold

Make paper gold medals for special awards. Giving children praise for hard work, good behavior and sportsmanship helps them view themselves in a positive way.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

Salma Hayek: 'I am proud to be Mexican'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Salma Hayek says she is proud to be Mexican and that comments suggesting otherwise were "lost in translation."

The 45-year-old actress issued a statement Thursday after German Vogue magazine quoted her as saying she "hardly had any memories of what it is to be Mexican."

In this Feb. 15, 2012 file photo, actress Salma Hayek arrives for the screening of the film, "As Luck Would Have It " (La Chispa De La Vida), at the 62 edition of International Film Festival Berlinale, in Berlin. AP

"I have never denied my background or my culture," Hayek says in the statement released by publicist Cari Ross. "I have taught my child to embrace her Mexican heritage, to love my first language, Spanish, to learn about Mexican history, music, folk art, food, and even the Mexican candy I grew up with. I have always been an active part of my community. I have tried my whole life to represent my Mexican roots with honor and pride. It saddens me when my words are lost in translation and taken out of context to hurt the people of Mexico, whom I love."

Hayek graces the cover of German Vogue and gives an interview about her role as the leader of a Mexican drug cartel in the Oliver Stone drama "Savages." Telephone calls seeking comment placed to the magazine late Thursday night went unanswered.

This is not the first time Hayek has made remarks about her Mexican background that have drawn attention. Last year, she quipped to a reporter in Spanish, "If it wasn't because of my high heels, I would still be in Coatzacoalcos with 10 children."

ABC Family orders Jennifer Lopez-produced TV pilot

LOS ANGELES (AP)—ABC Family says it green-lighted a series pilot from Jennifer Lopez's production company about a lesbian couple and their diverse family.

ABC Family said Thursday the comedy-drama pilot, titled "The Fosters," is about two women raising a "21st century," multi-ethnic mix of foster and biological kids.

Lopez will be an executive producer for the hour-long project. Casting was not announced.

Her company, Nuyorican, is in development on other TV series, including "Taming Ben Taylor," a romantic comedy starring the actress-singer, and "Sweet Little 15," a Mexican girl's coming-of-age story.

Lopez, who recently exited "American Idol" as a judge, also is developing films through her company.

In this Feb. 26, 2012 file photo, actress and singer Jennifer Lopez arrives at the Vanity Fair Oscar party in West Hollywood, Calif. AP

Homeless man charged in LL Cool J home break-in

This May 16, 2012 file photo shows "NCIS: Los Angeles" cast member LL COOL J at the CBS network upfront presentation at The Tent at Lincoln Center in New York. AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A homeless man was charged Thursday with burglary for allegedly breaking into the California home of LL Cool J, where the actor-rapper subdued him.

Jonathan Kirby was charged with first-degree burglary with a person present and faces a maximum of 38 years to life in prison if convicted. Prosecutors are asking bail be set at $1.1 million.

No arraignment date has been set and it wasn't immediately known if Kirby, 56, has retained an attorney.

Kirby remains in a hospital with a broken nose, jaw and ribs after the early Wednesday altercation with the "NCIS: Los Angeles" actor, authorities said. LL Cool J held Kirby until police arrived and wasn't injured.

Kirby has a criminal record, including convictions for voluntary manslaughter in Dallas nearly 25 years ago, along with burglary and petty theft.

LL Cool J, born James Smith, has had musical hits such as "Mama Said Knock You Out" and "I'm Bad," and has starred in films including "Any Given Sunday."

Michelle Obama to appear on 'Dr. Oz Show'

NEW YORK (AP)—Michelle Obama is making a house call on "The Dr. Oz Show."

The show's producers say the first lady will tape an appearance Wednesday to discuss new provisions of her "Let's Move!" campaign and the Presidential Youth Fitness Program.

Producers said Thursday that Mrs. Obama's appearance will be taped at the show's New York studio for national broadcast Sept. 14.

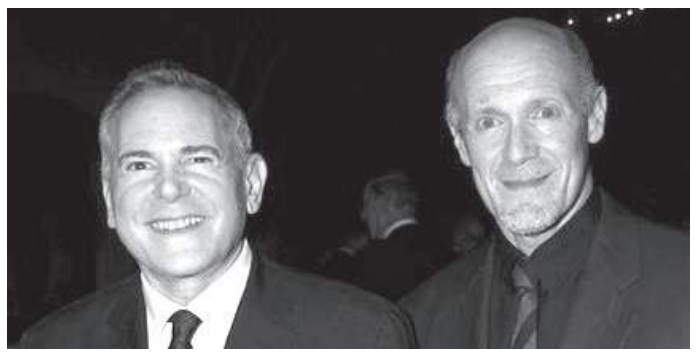
The show's host, Mehmet Oz, says he's "honored" that she has chosen to be a guest on his show.

"The Dr. Oz Show," which airs weekdays in syndication, starts its fourth season next month.

The first lady also will appear on the CBS "Rachael Ray" season-seven premiere Sept. 17, and discuss health and fitness.

First Lady Michelle Obama points to supporters at the War Memorial auditorium Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2012 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. AP

'Hairspray' producers Zadan, Meron to run Oscars



This Nov. 15, 2007 file photo shows Craig Zadan, left, and Neil Meron, producers of the film "Hairspray" at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival's Kirk Douglas Award for Excellence in Film presented to actor John Travolta in Santa Barbara, Calif. AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The producing team that helped to create such musicals as "Chicago" and "Hairspray" is overseeing the next Academy Awards ceremony.

Academy management announced Thursday that Craig Zadan and Neil Meron will produce the 85th annual Oscars that will air live Feb. 24 on ABC.

Zadan and Meron were executive producers on 2002's "Chicago," which won six Oscars including best picture. They also were producers on the 2007 hits "Hairspray" and "The Bucket List" and last year's remake of "Footloose." Zadan also produced the 1984 original "Footloose."

Among Zadan and Meron's TV credits are the series "Smash," ``A Raisin in the Sun" and the upcoming "Steel Magnolias."

On Broadway, Zadan and Meron's work includes Tony Award-winning revivals of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" and "Promises, Promises."

Sister likes gift idea so much she steals it

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My sister sent me an email asking what I was getting our mom for her birthday because she had very few ideas. I told her I was planning to get Mom a gift card so she could buy a book for her e-reader.

Two days later, my sister emailed me back telling me she liked my idea so much she used it and mailed Mom the same gift card herself. She said it's "no big deal" if we got Mom the same thing.

It's a big deal to me. I think it was rude and inconsiderate. She says I'm being "ridiculous" because "it's only a gift card" and it doesn't matter if Mom got two of them. To me, if you ask what I'm getting someone as a gift, it's rude to run out and buy that item yourself. Who do you agree with?

LEARNED A LESSON IN LEWISBURG, PA.

DEAR LEARNED A LESSON: I agree with you. But rather than hold a grudge, take the lesson to heart. The next time your sister asks you for gift suggestions for a relative, tell her, "Gee, I haven't decided yet."

DEAR ABBY: I am an 11-year-old boy who lives in San Francisco. I read your column in the San Francisco Chronicle every day. I love your thinking and wish I could be as sensible as you. I just wanted to ask: How old do you think someone should be to read your column? I know your column can be possibly inappropriate, but love reading it anyway.

T.P. IN S.F.

DEAR T.P.: You are not the only young person who reads my column. (I printed a letter from a 7-year-old earlier this week.) I have been told that my column has been used for many years to start important conversations between people of all ages.

When I was growing up, no literature in our house was off limits—and any question I asked my parents was given a straight answer. I hope it's the same in your family because if it is, you will grow up to be at LEAST as "sensible" as me.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter has given me permission to resume communication with my grandson, "Justin." She has kept us apart since he was 3. Justin is now 17.

I have been told by the other grandparents that Justin holds no animosity toward me. He knows I have never given up hope that one day we could reunite. Because of my daughter's unpredictable temperament and her use of my grandson as a way to control me, I'm leery and don't trust her to keep the door open between us. I'm afraid she'll slam it shut again.

What steps should I take? Justin turns 18 next year and his mom plans to "move without him, once he's 18." Should I contact him now or wait until he reaches 18? I am tired and all cried out, but I want to do the right thing for my grandson's mental health, given the craziness his mother has created.

LOVING, LONGING GRANDMA

DEAR GRANDMA: Write your grandson a sweet note and inform him that his mother has given "permission" for you to make contact with him. Ask him to call you, so he can begin getting to know you. Find out what his plans are, and invite him to visit. However, do this SLOWLY—because you still don't know how much damage your daughter's "unpredictable temperament" has done in the formation of his personality and character. Proceed with your eyes wide open.

Because it appears your daughter wants to abandon her son as soon as she legally is able to, he will need all of the caring and supportive relatives he can find.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

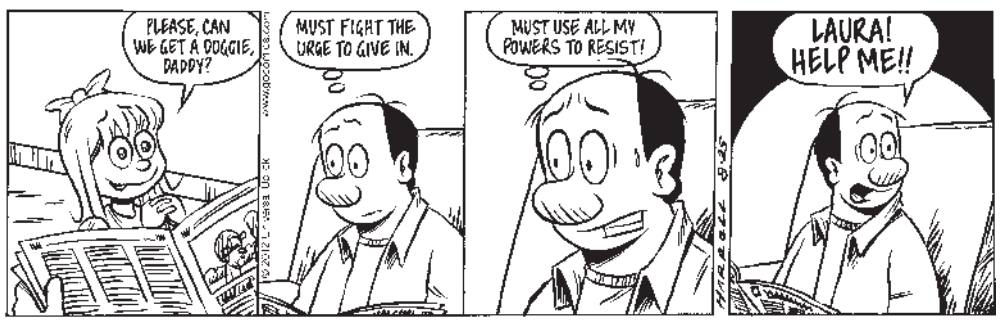
WHOOO! IT SMELLS AWFUL IN HERE! WHY DOES YOUR ROOM STINK?
IT'S BECAUSE OF THE DARN MONSTERS UNDER MY BED!
CALVIN, I DONT BELIEVE FOR A MINUTE THAT YOUR NIGHTTIME 'MONSTERS' ARE CAUSING THIS SMELL.
BUT IT'S TRUE.
SEE? THEY DONT EAT ALL THE GARBAGE WE THROW DOWN THERE TO KEEP 'EM QUIET.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

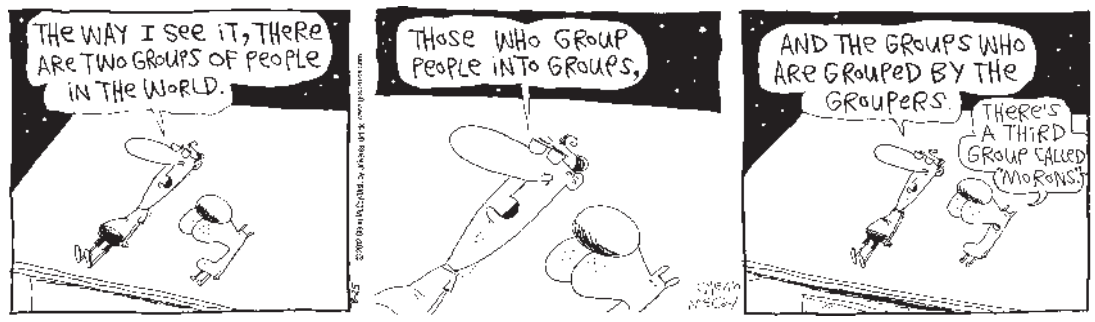
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THE WAY I see iT, THERE ARE TWO GROUPS OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.
THOSE WHO GROUP PEOPLE INTO GROUPS,
AND THE GROUPS WHO ARE GROUPED BY THE GROUPERS
THERE'S A THIRD GROUP CALLED MORONS

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

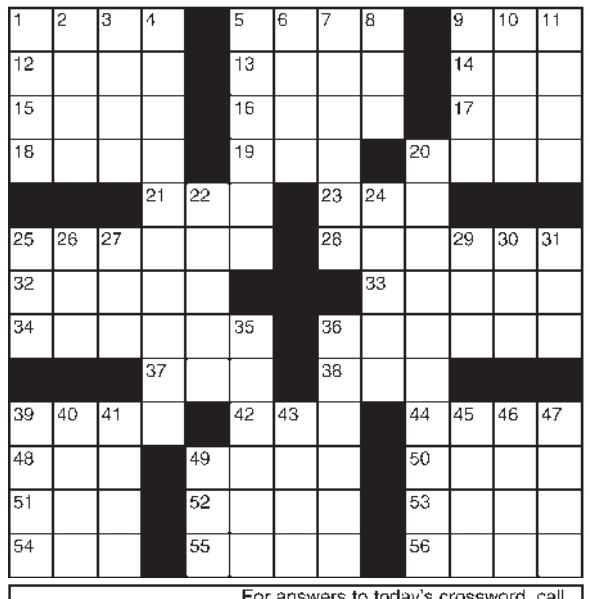
ACROSS
1 Impresses greatly
5 Reverberate
9 — out a living
12 Type of pit
13 Got bigger
14 Guacamole, often
15 Roughly
16 Exceptional
17 Born
18 Crystal gazer
19 Swelled head
20 Wash
21 Wearer of a onesie
23 UN workers' agcy.
25 Necklace fasteners
28 Have a huddle
32 Hispaniola part
33 Concur
34 Cookwear?
36 Handle the expense
37 Gun the engine
38 Exploit
39 Metropolis
42 Early bird?
44 Chantilly, e.g.
48 Commotion
49 Lotion additive
50 Story teller
51 Cattle call?
52 Luminary
53 Tote board stats
54 Wapiti
55 Favorites
56 Toward the sunset

DOWN
1 Andy's pal
2 Sported
3 Being, to Brutus
4 O. Henry specialty
5 Herons' kin
6 Rugged rock
7 Brave
8 Have bills
9 Author Ferber
10 Chicken —
11 Duel tool
20 "Hiawatha" writer
22 Put your two cents in
24 Ducks work
25 Half a dance?
26 Once around
27 Melody
29 To and —
30 Always, in verse
31 Crimson
35 Slender
36 Boring tools
39 Arrived
40 "American —"
41 Snatched
43 Capricorn
45 Staffer
46 Two-timers
47 Formerly, formerly
49 Cleo's slayer

Solution time: 27 mins.

J	A	R		A	V	O	W		E	R	G	S
A	G	A		B	E	N	E		V	I	E	W
M	E	D	I	A	T	E	D		E	T	N	A
		I	N	F	O			F	L	E	E	T
T	R	A	C	T		O	I	L	Y			
O	A	T	H		A	T	R	A	N	D	O	M
T	I	E		O	C	T	E	T		E	M	U
E	N	D	G	A	M	E	S		O	V	E	R
			U	S	E	R		S	K	I	N	K
T	R	A	I	T			S	E	R	A		
E	A	R	L		S	A	T	I	A	T	E	D
D	I	E	T		A	R	I	Z		E	R	A
S	L	A	Y		W	I	R	E		D	R	Y

Yesterday's answer 8-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Blake Lively, 25; Rachel Bilson, 31; Billy Ray Cyrus, 51; Sean Connery, 82.

Happy Birthday: Conflict between work and home can leave you in a quandary. Scheduling and planning will make a difference and help you reach goals that can determine how far up or down your personal and professional positions will move this year. Your numbers are 6, 13, 20, 28, 35, 39, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll multitask amazingly well. Load up your to-do list and chip away at the numerous projects you want to accomplish. Don't let someone's negativity slow you down. You will make a good impression with an expressive presentation. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Make a decision based on what works for you. Do whatever it takes to enhance your love life. Actions will speak louder than words. Good fortune is heading in your direction. Make plans that allow you to mix business with pleasure. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Emotional deception is apparent. Proceed with caution, especially when dealing with financial matters. Not everyone will think and feel the same way you do. Write down your thoughts before you say what's on your mind. Precision and detail will count in the end. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Do something creative or unique. Visit a destination you've never been to before, or get involved in community events that will bring you in touch with different cultures and traditions. Love is highlighted, but don't let anyone limit your plans. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't take "no" for an answer. Be straightforward, aggressive and persistent. Play to win and you will make an impression. Speak your mind and you will force necessary change. Look out for the underdog and you will form a close alliance. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Bypass emotional turmoil. Stick to the activities and projects that ease your stress and bring you satisfaction. Don't let someone else's melodrama ruin your day. Consider measures you can take to protect your professional security. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't think about what you want to achieve; start moving in a direction that will help you reach your destination. Travel and exploring avenues that will bring you in contact with experienced people will help you change your life. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't give your creative secrets away. Use your ideas to get ahead, not to help someone else advance. Control whatever situation you face and you will stand out. Love is highlighted. Include someone you cherish in your plans. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may think you have everything under control, but someone is likely to take over when you aren't looking. Offer to help someone physically, but don't give financial support. Save your cash for the changes you want to implement at home. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't rely on others. Do the work and keep moving. Trust in your own judgment, and focus on using your attributes to get what you want. A love relation must be handled carefully. Not everyone will have your best interest at heart. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Fixing up your surroundings or making changes that will help a relationship you cherish grow into something special should be your plan. Altering the way you live your life will result in unexpected support and compliments. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Pick a direction. Appearing to be wishy-washy will work against you. Show your strengths, and you will avoid being taken for granted. Love is in the stars. Be brave and make the first move. Self-improvement projects will turn out well. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are clever, risky and fun-loving. You are quick and adventuresome.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			9		2			
		5	7		1	2		
	1						3	
3	2						6	1
				8				
9	8						7	2
	5						1	
		9	3		8	4		
			5		9			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	7	9	8	2	6	1	4	5
6	8	4	3	1	5	7	2	9
5	2	1	9	4	7	6	3	8
1	4	6	7	8	9	2	5	3
8	3	5	2	6	4	9	1	7
7	9	2	5	3	1	4	8	6
2	6	8	1	7	3	5	9	4
4	5	3	6	9	2	8	7	1
9	1	7	4	5	8	3	6	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/24

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PETROLEUM JELLY Solution: 9 letters

S	S	R	S	H	C	C	B	O	M	S	P	E	B	M
C	E	D	E	T	T	A	S	A	Y	S	N	U	Y	P
R	U	H	L	L	A	L	N	S	B	I	T	R	R	C
A	F	T	S	O	A	I	A	D	L	Y	E	O	U	E
P	I	M	S	A	C	E	N	E	L	T	T	R	P	B
E	R	I	M	U	R	I	S	C	H	E	E	S	G	S
S	S	X	R	G	K	A	A	M	C	A	W	L	M	H
C	T	E	E	S	V	R	Y	T	L	V	Y	A	I	O
E	A	D	Y	W	B	R	A	L	E	C	M	R	X	E
N	I	R	O	A	I	N	A	H	E	A	R	E	T	S
T	D	U	M	S	T	C	I	R	K	E	T	N	U	E
E	N	A	T	F	I	C	O	E	P	O	I	I	R	N
D	T	A	O	P	L	L	U	A	I	C	S	M	E	I
E	T	S	O	E	Ⓢ	Ⓟ	Ⓘ	Ⓛ	T	S	D	N	A	H
E	E	T	I	H	W	D	Y	R	E	P	P	I	L	S

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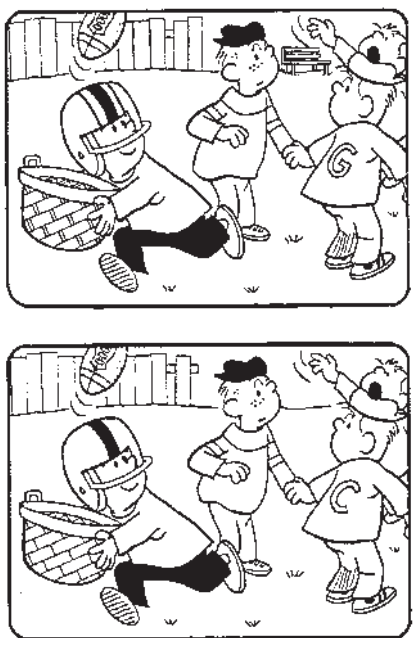
Baby, Burns, Butylcarbamate, Candle Wax, Coat, Colds, Cure All, Cuts, Diaper, Dry Skin, First-Aid, Glycerol, Greasy, Hands, Health, Lips, Makeup, Manicure, Minerals, Mixed, Mixture, Myreth Myristate, Oily, Protectant, Pure, Rashes, Scented, Scrapes, Sealer, Shine, Shoes, Slippery, Soft, Spots, Stain, Topical, Vaseline, Vehicle, White, Wound

Yesterday's Answer: Nadvice

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



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Wishing Well®

3	6	3	5	6	8	3	5	7	3	7	4	2
K	T	E	E	A	F	E	S	M	P	A	N	B
4	3	6	8	6	7	4	6	4	7	6	5	2
E	T	K	O	E	T	W	A	A	E	F	T	E
3	6	8	4	6	3	8	4	2	5	7	6	2
R	F	R	C	I	Y	G	C	C	A	R	R	A
8	3	6	7	5	7	3	6	2	7	8	5	4
E	I	M	I	B	A	N	A	U	L	A	L	L
7	5	2	6	2	6	3	5	4	6	7	6	8
A	I	T	T	I	I	G	S	A	V	M	E	H
6	7	8	7	8	5	7	2	8	6	7	5	4
A	B	E	I	A	H	T	O	D	C	I	G	I
6	4	6	5	6	5	2	6	7	5	2	7	5
T	M	I	O	O	A	U	N	O	L	S	N	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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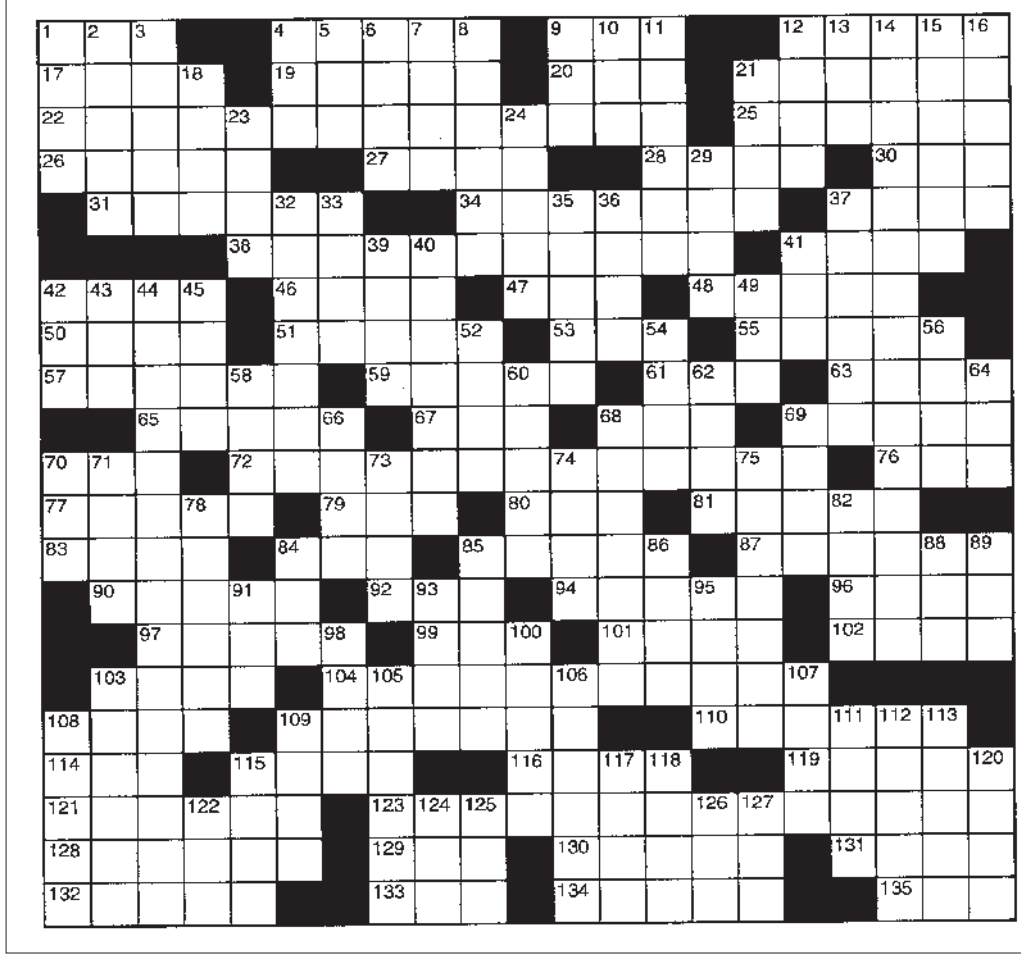
Super Crossword WELL-ROUNDED

ACROSS

1 Existed
4 Obscure
9 Apply lightly
12 Fashionably nostalgic
17 Choir member
19 City on the Mohawk
20 Actor Tognazzi
21 Shrivel up
22 Joe Harnell hit
25 In distress
26 Actress Shire
27 Individual performances
28 Asta's father
30 Police hdqrs.
31 Profited
34 NATO member
37 Churchill's successor
38 Jason Biggs film
41 Coasted
42 Fugue composer
46 — Bator
47 Grab all the goodies
48 Anthony Quinn role
50 Pennsylvania port
51 Crack up
53 Taxi
55 Condemns
57 Where to find a fennec
59 Parasite
61 Casserole cover
63 Place of origin
65 Pack peppers
67 New Deal agcy.
68 Reggae's Marley
69 "Roots" Emmy winner
70 Blanc or Brooks
72 The Cyrkle hit
76 Narcs' org.
77 Sheepish sound
79 Sandra of "A Summer Place"
80 Neighbor of Tenn.
81 Tracking tool
83 Singer Tori
84 Spud bud
85 Vote in
87 Dull
90 Time and again
92 It may be fake
94 Stringed instrument
96 Machu Picchu native
97 Tolkien character
99 Attained
101 Football's Van Brocklin
102 Like kids at Christmas
103 Drescher of "The Nanny"
104 Hollywood award
108 Banister
109 Cheeseboard choice
110 Jet of yore
114 Fury
115 Encounter
116 "— Lama Ding Dong" ('61 tune)
119 Dropped the ball
121 "Blue Velvet" singer
123 Merv Griffin creation
128 Salad veggie
129 "— Man" ('67 hit)
130 Senator Hatch
131 Mix
132 Cafe vessel
133 Craggy hill
134 Peter of Herman's Hermits
135 Lady lobster

DOWN

1 Float on the breeze
2 Jones of "Show Boat"
3 Type
4 Except
5 Monty's milieu
6 What the shoe does
7 — Rios, Jamaica
8 Ancient tongue
9 Couple
10 Past
11 Tiny tree
12 Indian export
13 Archaic ending
14 Gary Lewis & the Playboys hit
15 Let
16 Phantom instrument
18 Skip
21 Beaver's dad
23 "I could — horse!"
24 Biblical book
29 "Mockingbird" singer Foxx
32 Attempt to equal
33 Oscar — Renta
35 Tennyson's Arden
36 Green org.
37 Wades through a crowd
39 Julia of "Havana"
40 Babe in the woods
41 Theater sign
42 Arthur of "Maude"
43 Griffon greeting
44 Minnie Driver film
45 Successor
49 Bizarre
52 Rosemary or basil
54 Hunk of gunk
56 Hook's henchman
58 Transport
60 Plot
62 Bridge support
64 Bikini part
66 Whirlpool
68 Like mountain air
69 With 117 Down, Italian statesman
70 Exec's deg.
71 Actor Lincoln
73 Shorten a sail
74 Hgt.
75 '59 Ritchie Valens hit
78 Starry
82 Peerce piece
84 Remnant
85 Carve a canyon
86 Implement
88 Member of the mil.
89 Joke
91 Tons of time
93 Hard on the eyes
95 Author Hubbard
98 Brute
100 Pied-a- —
103 Breakfast food
105 Get the better of
106 Kevin of "SNL"
107 Part of EMT
108 Shipbuilding need
109 Passed-on item
111 Fleming and Linkletter
112 Consequences alternative
113 Skater Sonja
115 Budge
117 See 69 Down
118 Fluffy coif
120 Bruce of "Coming Home"
122 "Whether — nobler in the mind . . ."
124 Medical grp.
125 Corn portion
126 Perch part
127 Waugh's "The Loved —"



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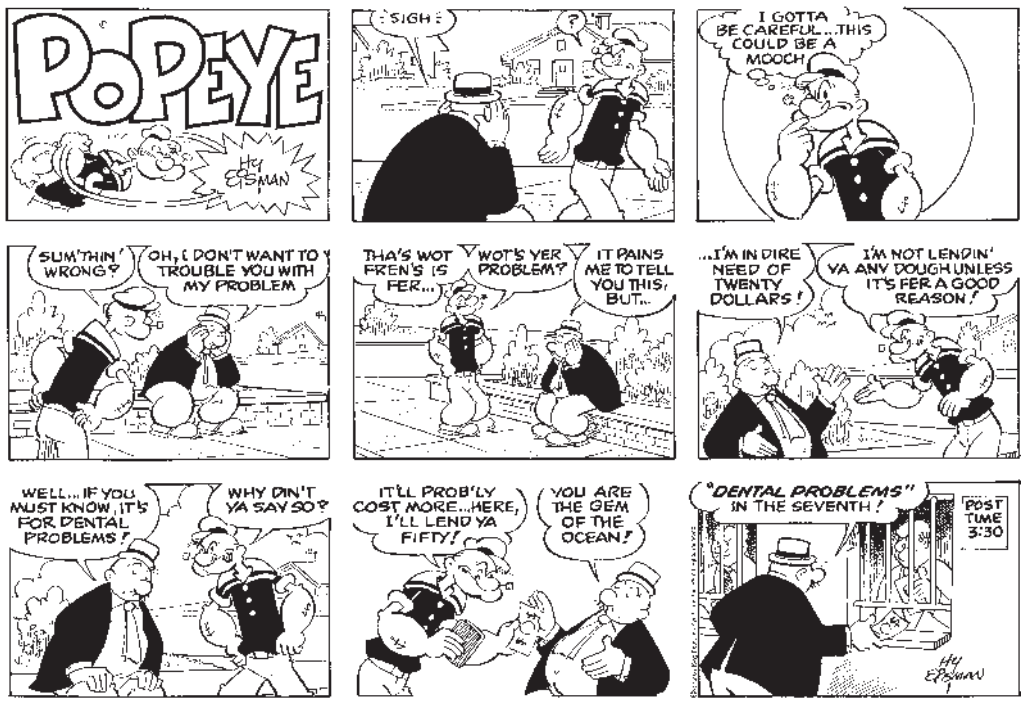
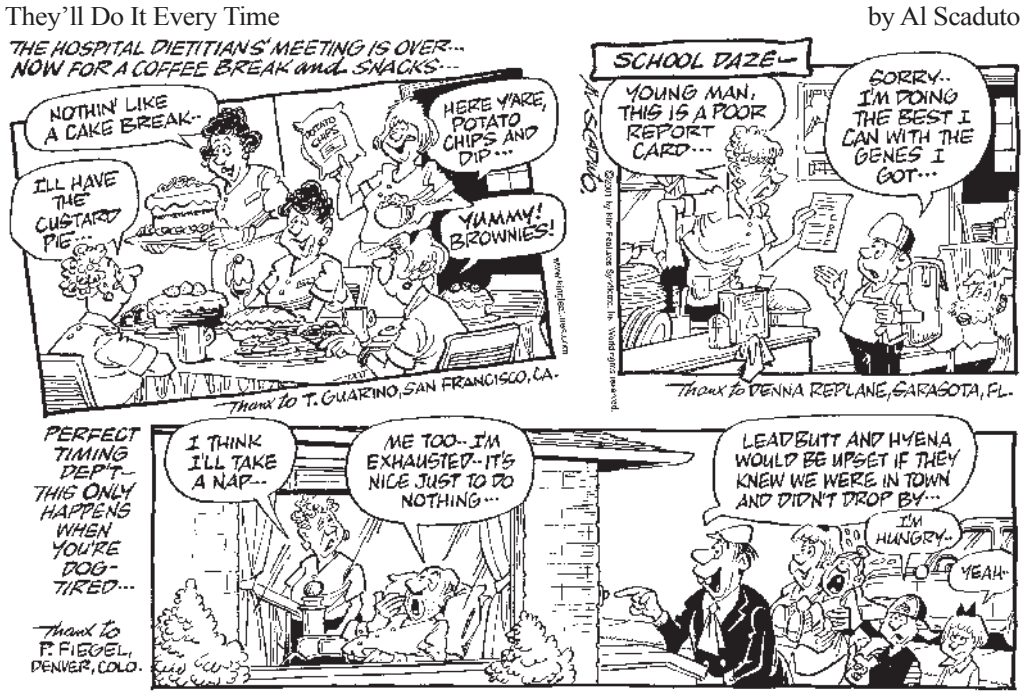
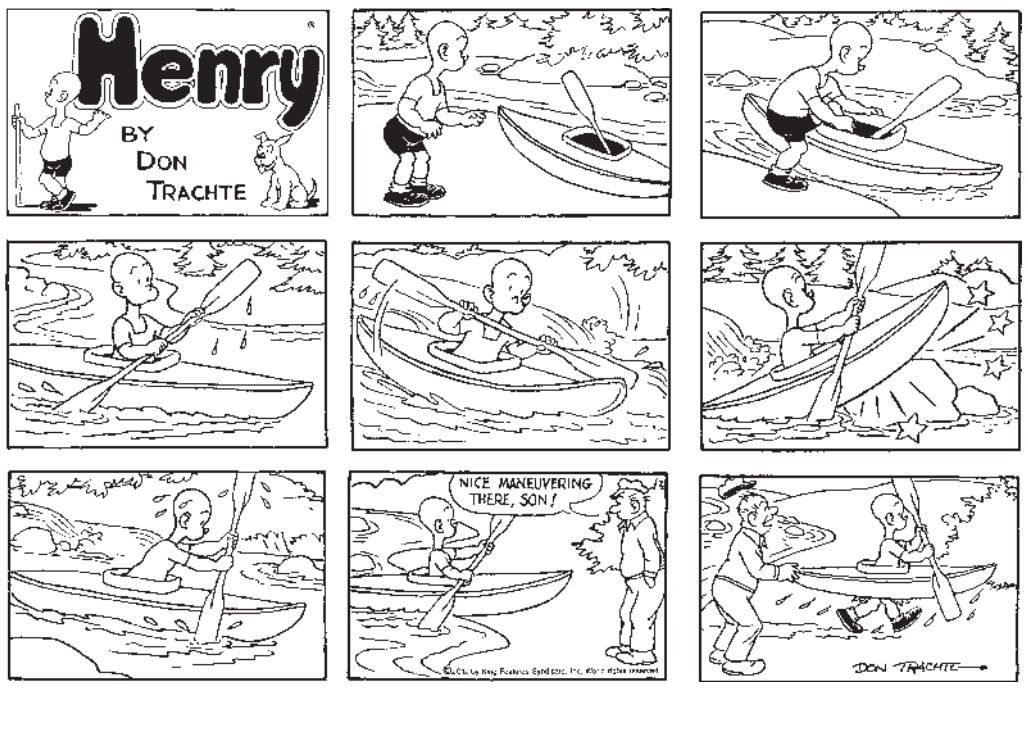

POPEYE
Hy EISMAN
SIGH
I GOTTA BE CAREFUL...THIS COULD BE A MOOCH
SUM'THIN' WRONG?
OH, I DON'T WANT TO TROUBLE YOU WITH MY PROBLEM
THA'S WOT FREN'S IS FER...
WOT'S YER PROBLEM?
IT PAINS ME TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT...
...I'M IN DIRE NEED OF TWENTY DOLLARS!
I'M NOT LENDIN' YA ANY DOUGH UNLESS IT'S FER A GOOD REASON!
WELL... IF YOU MUST KNOW, IT'S FOR DENTAL PROBLEMS!
WHY DIN'T YA SAY SO?
IT'LL PROB'LY COST MORE...HERE, I'LL LEND YA FIFTY!
YOU ARE THE GEM OF THE OCEAN!
"DENTAL PROBLEMS" IN THE SEVENTH!
POST TIME 3:30
Hy EISMAN

They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto


THE HOSPITAL DIETITIANS' MEETING IS OVER... NOW FOR A COFFEE BREAK and SNACKS...
NOTHIN' LIKE A CAKE BREAK--
HERE Y'ARE, POTATO CHIPS AND DIP...
I'LL HAVE THE CUSTARD PIE...
YUMMY! BROWNIES!
Thanx to T. GUARINO, SAN FRANCISCO, CA.
SCHOOL DAZE--
YOUNG MAN, THIS IS A POOR REPORT CARD...
SORRY.. I'M DOING THE BEST I CAN WITH THE GENES I GOT...
M. SCADUTO
Thanx to DENNA REPLANE, SARASOTA, FL.
PERFECT TIMING DEPT.-- THIS ONLY HAPPENS WHEN YOU'RE DOG-TIRED...
I THINK I'LL TAKE A NAP--
ME TOO--I'M EXHAUSTED--IT'S NICE JUST TO DO NOTHING...
LEADBUTT AND HYENA WOULD BE UPSET IF THEY KNEW WE WERE IN TOWN AND DIDN'T DROP BY...
I'M HUNGRY..
YEAH..
Thanx to F. FIEGEL, DENVER, COLO.



Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MATH: What is the Arabic equivalent of the Roman numerals MLXVI?
2. CHEMISTRY: What is the chemical symbol for copper?
3. TELEVISION: What was the name of the company that employed the title characters in "Laverne and Shirley"?
4. MUSIC: What rock band composed the soundtrack to the 1984 movie "Dune"?
5. ENTERTAINERS: What was comedian/actor Bob Hope's theme song?
6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the nickname for Georgetown University's sports teams?
7. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Brideshead Revisited"?
8. MEDICAL TERMS: What is a common name for bruxism?
9. GEOGRAPHY: What modern country encompasses most of the area once known as Asia Minor?
10. MEASUREMENTS: What is a quintal equivalent to?

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Answers

1. 1066
2. CU
3. Short Brewery
4. Toto
5. "Thanks for the Memory"
6. Hoyas
7. Evelyn Waugh
8. Teeth grinding
9. Turkey
10. 100 kilograms or pounds

Saturday's Answers

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering

CLASSIFIED ADS

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• 3-Liner	$15	$27
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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Dinah S. Medina
P.O. Box 502345
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 233-6872 / 789-8857

Pro se,

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DINAH MEDINA
Petitioner,

Vs.

WILLY MEDINA
Respondent.

FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0308

SUMMONS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Petitioner, Dinah Medina whose address is P.O. Box 502345, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 26th day of June, 2012.

/s/Clerk of Court

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Assistant Installer (Alarm and Camera) Minimum salary. Email resume to Marianas Security Corporation at msc@marianassecurity.com.

Wing Corporation needs an Accountant - $5.55/hr. College Grad. w/ 5 yrs experience. Pls call 233-3341

(3) Child Caregiver. Salary: $ 5.05/hr. Minimum 2 years experience in handling kids and CPR Certified. Fax resume to Sisters Corp. Inc. 233-6828.

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Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
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M&J BEAUTY SALON
Massage (60 mins) $15.00
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Location: Chalan Kiya Saipan • Contact No. 989-3342

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Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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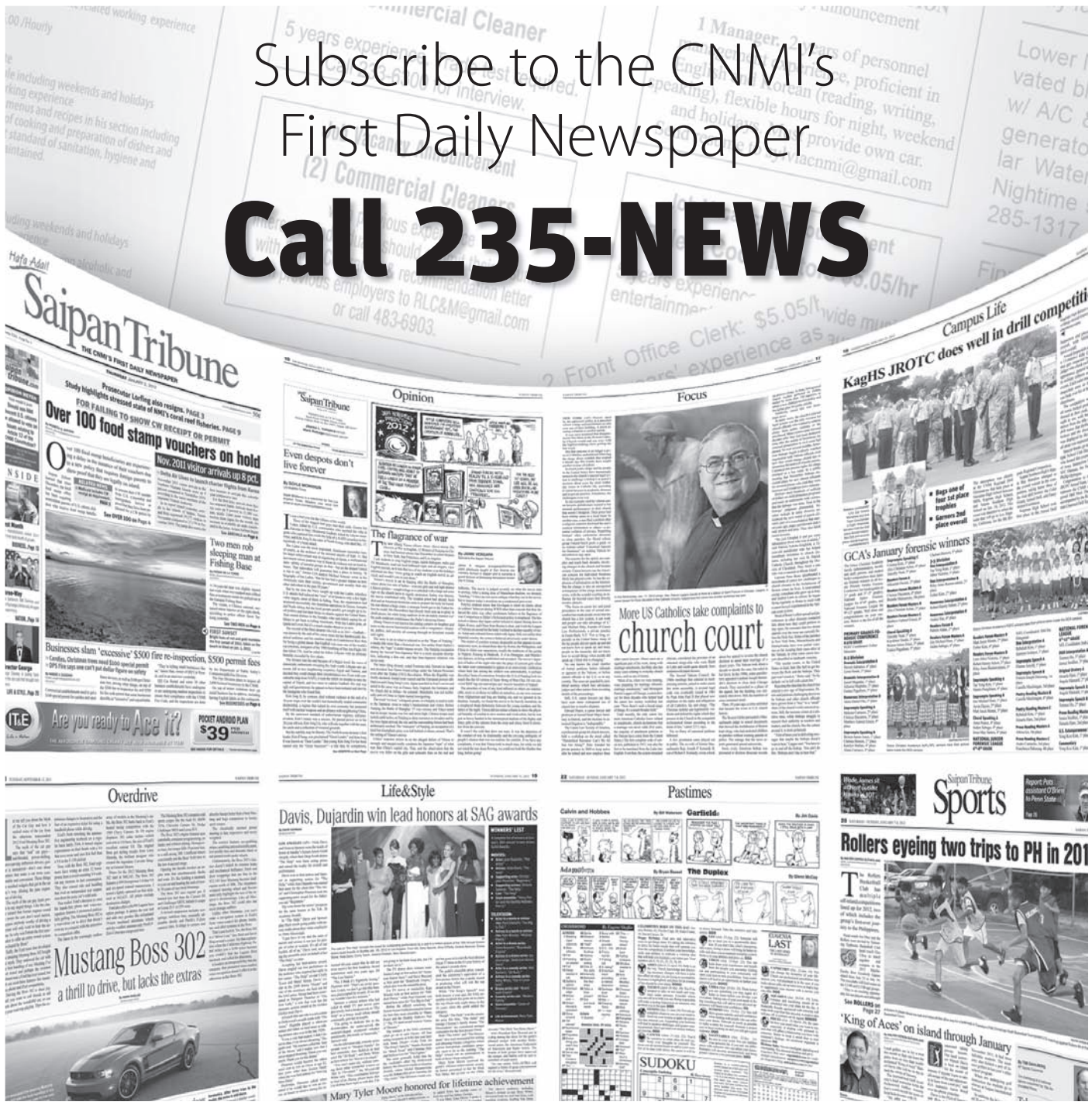
Saipan Tribune
Over 100 food stamp vouchers on hold
Businesses slam 'excessive' $500 fire re-inspection, $500 permit fees
Opinion
Even despots don't live forever
The flagrance of war
Focus
More US Catholics take complaints to church court
Campus Life
KagHS JROTC does well in drill competiti
GCA's January forensic winners
Overdrive
Mustang Boss 302
a thrill to drive, but lacks the extras
Life&Style
Davis, Dujardin win lead honors at SAG awards
Mary Tyler Moore honored for lifetime achievement
Pastimes
Sports
Rollers eyeing two trips to PH in 201
'King of Aces' on island through January

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USADA to strip Armstrong of 7 Tour titles

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—With stunning swiftness, the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency said Thursday night it will strip Lance Armstrong of his unprecedented seven Tour de France titles after he dropped his fight against drug charges that threatened his legacy as one of the greatest cyclists of all time.

Travis Tygart, USADA's chief executive, said Armstrong would also be hit with a lifetime ban on Friday. And under the World Anti-Doping Code, he would lose the bronze medal from the 2000 Olympics as well as any awards, event titles and cash earnings.

Armstrong, who retired last year, effectively dropped his fight by declining to enter USADA's arbitration process—his last option—because he said he was weary of fighting accusations that have dogged him for years. He has consistently pointed to the hundreds of drug tests he passed as proof of his innocence while piling up Tour titles from 1999 to 2005.

"There comes a point in every man's life when he has to say, `Enough is enough.' For me, that time is now," Armstrong said. He called the USADA investigation an "unconstitutional witch hunt."

"I have been dealing with claims that I cheated and had an unfair advantage in winning my seven Tours since 1999," he said. "The toll this has taken on my family and my work for our foundation and on me leads me to where I am today - finished with this nonsense."

USADA reacted quickly and treated Armstrong's decision as an admission of guilt, hanging the label of drug cheat on an athlete who was a hero to thousands for overcoming life-threatening testicular cancer and for his foundation's support for cancer research.

"It is a sad day for all of us who love sport and athletes," Tygart said. "It's a heartbreaking example of win at all costs overtaking the fair and safe option. There's no success in cheating to win."

Tygart said the agency had the power to strip the Tour titles, though Armstrong disputed that.

"USADA cannot assert control of a professional international sport and attempt to strip my seven Tour de France titles," he said. "I know who won those seven Tours, my teammates know who won those seven Tours, and everyone I competed against knows who won those seven Tours."

Still to be heard from was the sport's governing body, the International Cycling Union, which had backed Armstrong's legal challenge to USADA's authority and in theory could take the case before the international Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Tygart said UCI was "bound to recognize our decision and impose it" as a signer of the World Anti-Doping Code.

"They have no choice but to strip the titles under the code," he said.

USADA maintains that Armstrong has used banned substances as far back as 1996, including the blood-booster EPO and steroids as well as blood transfusions—all to boost his performance.

The 40-year-old Armstrong walked away from the sport in 2011 without being charged following a two-year federal criminal investigation into many of the same accusations he faces from USADA.

"There is zero physical evidence to support (the) outlandish and heinous claims," Armstrong said. "The only physical evidence here is the hundreds of (doping) controls I have passed with flying colors."

Armstrong sued USADA in Austin, where he lives, in an attempt to block the case and was supported by the UCI. A judge threw out the case on Monday, siding with USADA despite questioning the agency's pursuit of Armstrong in his retirement.

"USADA's conduct raises serious questions about whether its real interest in charging Armstrong is to combat doping, or

AP

In this Feb. 15, 2011, file photo, Lance Armstrong pauses during an interview in Austin, Texas. Armstrong said on Thursday, Aug. 23, 2012, that he is finished fighting United States Anti-Doping Agency's charges that he used performance-enhancing drugs during his unprecedented cycling career.

The federal probe was closed in February, but USADA announced in June it had evidence Armstrong used banned substances and methods - and encouraged their use by teammates. The agency also said it had blood tests from 2009 and 2010 that were "fully consistent" with blood doping.

Included in USADA's evidence were emails written by Armstrong's former U.S. Postal Service teammate Floyd Landis, who was stripped of his 2006 Tour de France title after a positive drug test. Landis' emails to a USA Cycling official detailed allegations of a complex doping program on the team.

USADA also said it had 10 former Armstrong teammates ready to testify against him. Other than suggesting they include Landis and Tyler Hamilton, both of whom have admitted to doping offenses, the agency has refused to say who they are or specifically what they would say.

if it is acting according to less noble motives," such as politics or publicity, U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks wrote.

Even if UCI and USADA differ on the Tour titles, the ultra-competitive Armstrong has still done something virtually unthinkable for him: He quit before a fight is over.

It was a stunning move for an athlete who built his reputation on not only beating cancer, but forcing himself through grueling offseason workouts no one else could match, then crushing his rivals in the Alps and the Pyrenees.

"Today I turn the page. I will no longer address this issue, regardless of the circumstances," he said. "I will commit myself to the work I began before ever winning a single Tour de France title: serving people and families affected by cancer, especially those in underserved communities."

Armstrong could have pressed his innocence in USADA's arbitration process, which would have included a hearing during which evidence against him would have been presented. But the cyclist has said he believes most people have already made up their minds about whether he's a fraud or a persecuted hero.

Although he had already been crowned a world champion and won individual stages at the Tour de France, Armstrong was still relatively unknown in the U.S. until he won the epic race for the first time in 1999. It was the ultimate comeback tale: When diagnosed with cancer, doctors had given him less than a 50 percent chance of survival before surgery and brutal cycles of chemotherapy saved his life.

Armstrong's riveting victories, his work for cancer awareness and his gossip-page romances with rocker Sheryl Crow, fashion designer Tory Burch and actress Kate Hudson made him a figure who transcended sports.

His dominance of the Tour de France elevated the sport's popularity in America to unprecedented levels. His story and success helped sell millions of the "Livestrong" plastic yellow wrist bracelets, and enabled him to enlist lawmakers and global policymakers to promote cancer awareness and research. His Lance Armstrong Foundation has raised nearly $500 million since its founding in 1997.

Jeffery C. Gervey, chairman of the foundation, issued a statement of support saying:

"Faced with a biased process whose outcome seems predetermined, Lance chose to put his family and his foundation first," Gervey said. "The leadership of the Lance Armstrong Foundation remain incredibly proud of our founder's achievements, both on and off the bike."

Created in 2000, USADA is recognized by Congress as the official anti-doping agency for Olympic sports in the United States. Its investigators joined U.S. agents during the federal investigation of Armstrong. Tygart dismissed Armstrong's lawsuit as an attempt at "concealing the truth," saying the agency is motivated by one goal - exposing cheaters.

Armstrong had tense public disputes with USADA, the World Anti-Doping Agency, some former teammates and assistants and even Greg LeMond, the first American to win the Tour de France.

Others close to him were caught up in the investigations, too: Johan Bruyneel, the coach of Armstrong's teams, and three members of the medical staff and a consultant were also charged. Bruyneel is taking his case to arbitration, while two medical team staffers and consulting doctor Michele Ferrari didn't formally contest the charges and were issued lifetime ban by USADA. Ferrari later said he was innocent.

Questions surfaced even as Armstrong was on his way to his first Tour victory. He was leading the 1999 race when a trace amount of a banned anti-inflammatory corticosteroid was found in his urine; cycling officials said he was authorized to use a small amount of a cream to treat saddle sores.

After Armstrong's second victory in 2000, French judicial officials investigated his Postal Service team for drug use. That investigation ended with no charges, but the allegations kept coming.

Armstrong was criticized for his relationship with Ferrari, who was banned by Italian authorities over doping charges in 2002. Former personal and team assistants accused Armstrong of having steroids in an apartment in Spain and disposing of syringes that were used for injections.

In 2004, a Dallas-based promotions company initially refused to pay him a $5 million bonus for winning his sixth Tour de France because it wanted to investigate allegations raised by media in Europe. Testimony in that case included former teammate Frankie Andreu and his wife, Betsy, saying Armstrong told doctors during his 1996 cancer treatments that he had taken a cornucopia of steroids and performance-enhancing drugs.

Two books published in Europe, "L.A. Confidential" and "L.A. Official," also raised doping allegations and, in 2005, French magazine L'Equipe reported that retested urine samples from the 1999 Tour showed EPO use.

Armstrong fought every accusation with denials and, in some cases, lawsuits against media outlets that reported them.

He retired in 2005 and almost immediately considered a comeback before deciding to stay on the sidelines - in part because he didn't want to keep answering doping questions.

"I'm sick of this," Armstrong said in 2005. "Sitting here today, dealing with all this stuff again, knowing if I were to go back, there's no way I could get a fair shake - on the roadside, in doping control, or the labs.

Three years later, Armstrong was 36 and itching to ride again. He came back to finish third in the 2009 Tour de France.

Armstrong raced again in 2010 under the cloud of the federal investigation. Early last year, he quit the sport for good, making a brief return as a triathlete until the USADA investigation shut him down.

During his sworn testimony in the dispute over the $5 million bonus, Armstrong said he wouldn't take drugs because he had too much to lose.

"(The) faith of all the cancer survivors around the world. Everything I do off the bike would go away, too," Armstrong said then. "And don't think for a second I don't understand that. It's not about money for me. Everything. It's also about the faith that people have put in me over the years. So all of that would be erased."

Angels complete 3-game sweep of Red Sox

BOSTON (AP)— Kendrys Morales led off Los Angeles' two-run 10th inning with a solo homer, and the Angels completed a three-game sweep of Boston by outlasting the Red Sox 14-13 on Thursday night.

The Red Sox wasted a 6-0 lead then rallied from deficits of 8-7 in the sixth and 12-11 in the ninth. But closer Alfredo Aceves struggled after Boston was one out away from victory in the ninth. Aceves (2-8) gave up five runs and six hits in one inning, and the Red Sox lost for the 11th time in 15 games.

Ernesto Frieri (2-0) got the win after giving up a tying solo homer in the ninth to Cody Ross, his 19th of the season, and an RBI single in the 10th to Dustin Pedroia, who drove in five runs.

Frieri was charged with a blown save, but secured the win when he struck out Adrian Gonzalez to end the 4-hour, 34-minute game.

With the score tied at 12, Morales jumped on an 0-1 pitch from Aceves for his 16th homer - just over the low right field fence. Erick Aybar followed with a single, knocking out Aceves. Vernon Wells hit an RBI double off Craig Breslow for the final run.

The Angels, who were swept in four games by Tampa Bay before coming to Boston, remained five games behind the Rays and closed to within 3 1-2 of Baltimore in the race for the AL's two wild-card spots.

Rangers 10, Twins 6

In Arlington, Josh Hamilton had five RBIs and Mitch Moreland doubled in the go-ahead run during a six-run eighth inning that carried the Texas Rangers to a 10-6 victory over the Minnesota Twins.

Adrian Beltre had three hits, including his fourth homer in two days, and scored the tiebreaking run on Moreland's drive to left-center.

Minnesota starter Scott Diamond was ejected in the third by plate umpire Wally Bell after throwing a pitch behind Hamilton's head. Twins manager Ron Gardenhire also was tossed after immediately protesting Bell's decision.

Rangers starter Roy Oswalt had hit slugger Joe Mauer in the back in the preceding half-inning.

Rays 5, Athletics 0

In St. Petersburg, the surging Tampa Bay Rays have discovered a simple formula: It's hard to lose when you don't give up any runs.

Alex Cobb pitched a four-hitter for his first major league shutout and the Rays beat the Oakland Athletics, 5-0, to pull within 2 1/2 games of the first-place New York Yankees in the AL East.

Matt Joyce hit a two-run double in a five-run fifth inning against Tyson Ross, hastily called up from the minors to pitch in place of suspended Oakland starter Bartolo Colon.

Tigers 3, Blue Jays 2

In Detroit, Anthony Gose lifted a fly-ball to right-center field with a runner on second in the 10th inning, and it sure looked like the Toronto rookie had given his team the lead.

Austin Jackson had other ideas.

"He made a great play," Gose said. "I didn't think he was anywhere near it and he came out of nowhere."

Jackson's spectacular diving catch kept the game tied, and the Detroit Tigers eventually won it on Alex Avila's RBI single with two outs in the 11th. The 3-2 victory over the Blue Jays gave the Tigers a three-game sweep.

Phillies 4, Reds 3

In Philadelphia, John Mayberry Jr. hit an RBI single in the bottom of the 11th inning to lift the Philadelphia Phillies to a 4-3 victory over the Cincinnati Reds.

Todd Frazier drove in all three runs for the NL Central-leading Reds, who were seeking their first series win in Philadelphia since 2006.

The Phillies tied it in the eighth on Jimmy Rollins' sacrifice fly and won it on Mayberry's hit to split the four-game set. They took over sole possession of third place in the NL East for the first time since April.

AP

Boston Red Sox third baseman Pedro Ciriaco, top, drops his glove down between his legs as he tries unsuccessfully to catch Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout diving back to third on a rundown in the third inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Thursday, Aug. 23, 2012.

Cardinals 13, Astros 5

In St. Louis, David Freese's three-run homer snapped the Cardinals' seven-game longball drought and St. Louis beat the Houston Astros, 13-5, to complete a three-game sweep.

Freese and Matt Holliday each had four RBIs and Allen Craig had three hits and three RBIs. The Cardinals shrugged aside a 4-0, fourth-inning deficit and sent Houston to its seventh straight loss.

The Astros are 0-4 while getting outscored 32-8 since interim manager Tony DeFrancesco replaced Brad Mills as leader of the stripped-down roster.

Rockies 1, Mets 0

In New York, for the second straight game, a New York Mets rookie starter dominated the Colorado Rockies, only for the Rockies to pounce on the bullpen.

This time, Collin McHugh made an impressive first impression in his major-league debut, throwing seven shutout innings and striking out nine for the Mets.

But the Rockies jumped on reliever Bobby Parnell, with Tyler Colvin tripling on the second pitch he saw in the eighth and Chris Nelson knocking him in with what was the game-winning single in a 1-0 win Thursday.

It added up to Colorado's fifth straight win and the Mets' fifth consecutive loss. It also was the Rockies' eighth win in a row at Citi Field.

Giants 5, Braves 2

In San Francisco, Barry Zito took a three-hit shutout into the ninth inning, Hector Sanchez's two-run double highlighted a four-run fifth and the San Francisco Giants rolled past the Atlanta Braves, 5-2, for their fourth straight win.

Fresh off a sweep at the rival Los Angeles Dodgers, the NL West leaders stayed hot on a chilly and fog-filled night along the bay. Zito (10-8) allowed five hits, struck out five and walked three before Freddie Freeman's two-run double off reliever Jeremy Affeldt broke up the shutout.

With two runners on, Sergio Romo got pinch-hitters Jason Heyward and Juan Francisco to ground out for his sixth save.

Federer, Murray could have rematch in Open semis

US OPEN

NEW YORK (AP)— Though no player would admit to looking so far ahead, Novak Djokovic may have been the biggest winner when the U.S. Open bracket was set Thursday.

The defending champion and No. 2 seed can reach his third straight final at Flushing Meadows without having to face either Roger Federer or Andy Murray. Those two, meanwhile, wound up on the same side of the draw and could meet in the semifinals for a rematch of their recent finals at Wimbledon and the London Olympics.

"It's a question of luck," Djokovic said when asked about the only true drama in the unveiling of Thursday's bracket - whether third-seeded Murray would end up on his or top-seeded Federer's side of the draw. "You try to focus on what's in your hands, what's in your power. Thinking about the semifinal at this moment, I don't think it's the best thing."

In the women's bracket, third-seeded Maria Sharapova drew a possible semifinal matchup against top-seeded Victoria Azarenka and fourth-seeded Serena Williams could play No. 2 Agnieszka Radwanska in the semifinals.

Rafael Nadal, ranked third, is out of this year's tournament with a knee injury, marking the first time since 2008 that the quartet of Federer, Nadal, Djokovic and Murray haven't been seeded 1 through 4 in some order at the U.S. Open.

Taking the fourth seed this year is David Ferrer, who has never made a Grand Slam final, and could face Djokovic in the semifinals.

Of the 16 semifinal spots over the last four Grand Slam tournaments, 14 have been occupied by one of the big four. Only Ferrer, at the French Open, and Jo Wilfried-Tsonga, at Wimbledon, have managed to break the stranglehold.

Djokovic has an 8-5 record against Ferrer, including a straight-set win in the quarterfinals of the Australian Open this year.

Top-seeded Federer is 8-9 against third-seeded Murray and the two have split their last two matches, both on Centre Court at the All England Club; Federer won the Wimbledon final and Murray took the gold-medal match at the London Olympics.

The potential men's quarterfinals are Federer vs. No. 6 Tomas Berdych, who upset him in the 2010 Wimbledon quarterfinals; Djokovic vs. 2009 U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro, seeded seventh; Murray vs. No. 5 Tsonga; Ferrer vs. No. 8 Janko Tipsarevic.

Sharapova completed the career Grand Slam at the French Open earlier this year, while Williams has 14 Grand Slam titles and is coming off wins at Wimbledon and the Olympics. Azarenka has one Grand Slam title - in Australia this year - while Radwanska's best finish in a major was her three-set loss to Williams in this year's Wimbledon final.

Williams' older sister Venus, who is ranked 47th this week and not seeded, plays American wild-card entry Bethanie Mattek-Sands in the first round and could face sixth-seeded Angelique Kerber in the second. Venus Williams, the 2000 and 2001 champion, pulled out of last year's U.S. Open hours before she was scheduled to play in the second round, revealing that she had been diagnosed with an autoimmune disease.

Four-time major champion Kim Clijsters will begin what she says will be the last tournament of her career against American wild-card recipient Victoria Duval. Clijsters, a 29-year-old Belgian who is seeded 23rd, might face the defending champion, seventh-seeded Sam Stosur, in the fourth round.

Clijsters won the U.S. Open the last three times she entered the hard-court tournament, in 2005, 2009 and 2010. She missed it last year because of a stomach muscle injury.

Stosur, meanwhile, has struggled since defeating Serena Williams in the final last year for her first Grand Slam title. She lost in the first round of the Australian Open and the Olympics and the second round of Wimbledon. Her only big run in a major this year came at the French Open, where she fell in a mistake-filled, three-set semifinal to Sara Errani.

"It's been a year of a few ups and downs, but a lot of players go through that," Stosur said. "In the last few weeks, being on hard court, I feel a lot better and a lot more comfortable on this surface. It's conditions that suits my game, so I'm glad to be back here."

No American man hasn won the U.S. Open since Andy Roddick in 2003. There are four seeded U.S. men trying to halt that streak: No. 9 John Isner, No. 23 Mardy Fish, No. 27 Sam Querrey and Roddick, who is seeded 20th. Roddick won a hard-court tournament in Atlanta in July, but has since fallen to Djokovic in the second round of the Olympics, then to 38th-ranked Jeremy Chardy in the first round in Cincinnati.

James Blake and Ryan Harrison are among the unseeded Americans in the draw. Roddick could face del Potro in the fourth round, while Isner is in the same quarter of the draw as Ferrer.

Federer, who has a record 17 Grand Slam titles, opens against another American, Donald Young, who is 2-20 this year.

Djokovic's first match is against 69th-ranked Paolo Lorenzi of Italy.

Serena Williams opens against another American, Coco Vandeweghe, the 2008 girls champion.

RGA July and August Ace tourneys Sunday

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will be holding both the July and August Ace of the Month competitions this Sunday at Coral Ocean Point.

Tee off is at 12pm, while show time is at 11am.

Last month's contest was suspended due to the inclement weather.

For more information, contact Joe Suares at 483-5506, Jess Wabol at 288-1129 or Jordan Kosam at 989-7345. ***(WCS)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

New York	72	52	.581	–
Tampa Bay	70	55	.560	2½
Baltimore	67	57	.540	5
Boston	59	66	.472	13½
Toronto	56	68	.452	16

Central Division

Chicago	68	55	.553	–
Detroit	67	57	.540	1½
Kansas City	55	68	.447	13
Cleveland	54	70	.435	14½
Minnesota	51	73	.411	17½

West Division

Texas	73	51	.589	–
Oakland	67	57	.540	6
Los Angeles	65	60	.520	8½
Seattle	61	64	.488	12½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	77	47	.621	–
Atlanta	71	54	.568	6½
Philadelphia	58	67	.464	19½
New York	57	68	.456	20½
Miami	57	69	.452	21

Central Division

Cincinnati	76	50	.603	–
St. Louis	68	56	.548	7
Pittsburgh	67	57	.540	8
Milwaukee	57	66	.463	17½
Chicago	47	76	.382	27½
Houston	39	86	.312	36½

West Division

San Francisco	70	55	.560	–
Los Angeles	67	58	.536	3
Arizona	64	61	.512	6
San Diego	56	70	.444	14½
Colorado	50	73	.407	19

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROTARY

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Hi-5, and a team sponsored by Northern Marianas College. The U16 field will have a couple RBC Rollers units, an Aces crew, an NMC entry, and four more teams. Teams from Koblerville, Dandan and Kagman are invited to join this season.

Slots are still available and interested participants can contact Elias Rangamar at 235-1775 for more information.

There will be one game per playing day in the U19 division and matches will take place on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at the Ada gym, starting at 5pm. Multiple matches will be played in the U16 division every Saturday morning.

Last year, the Sonics defeated RBC's "Fast-12", 72-65, in the U19 finals, while Proa downed the Docomo Pacific Rollers, 46-40, to hoist the U15 championship.

In related news, league organizers are in the process of setting up a ladies youth league and a mixed boys division open to players age 16 to 25.

The tentative startup for the ladies and boys mixed division is also slated sometime next month.

Voyagers, Hustlers share 8-ball league lead

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The IT&E Voyagers and the Blue Ice Hustlers are knotted up in first place in Saipan Billiards Association's 15th Budweiser Open 8-Ball Tuesday League after this week's matches.

The IT&E Voyagers survived 19th Hole Bar's Titans I (22-53), 8-7, in a home match held at SOS Bar & Grill, but found themselves with some company atop the Tuesday League standings, as the Blue Ice Hustlers ran over Poseidon Bar & Grill's Crazy 8 (29-46), 12-3, at home in Utopia Sports Bar. The co-leaders hold identical 47-28 records.

Just one game back in second place is the Docomo Pacific's Home Boyz (46-29), which defeated Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Triggers (39-36), 10-5, at home in Joe's Steakhouse. The Docomo Pacific's Home Boyz is three games ahead of Oceanside Bar & Grill's IT&E Incredibles (43-32), which blew out Yuichiros Printing (27-48), 12-3, in a road match held at Poseidon.

Meanwhile, the Waterfront's Eight It! remains in control in SBA's Bud Light Thursday league.

Eight It! handled third-ranked 19th Hole Titans II (41-34), 9-6, at home to improve its record to 47-28.

Second-ranked Bammy's Equalizers (45-30) moved closer to the leader with a strong 10-5 home victory over Jonny's Bar & Grill's Team SCS (34-41), while the 19th Hole Eagles (27-48) held off Wild Bill's Bar & Grill's Shark Attack (31-44), 8-7.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Blue Ice Hustlers, pictured in this recent file photo, routed Poseidon Bar & Grill's Crazy 8, 12-3, in a home game in the SBA 15th Budweiser Open 8-Ball Tuesday League held at the Utopia Sports Bar.

Oneshot, IT&E Na'Gupu tied on top

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Joe's Steakhouse's Oneshot and IT&E Na'Gupu of Naked Fish Bar & Grill are neck and neck in the 2012 Saipan Electronic Dart Association Summer/Fall Bud Light Dart League's B Fanihi division standings after last week's matchups.

IT&E Na'Gupu pulled off an impressive 10-5 road victory over fourth-ranked VFW Post 3457's Naughty Boyz (29-31) and ended up tied with Oneshot in first place. Oneshot managed a needed 8-7 road win over Es'y's Kitchen Darters (26-34), to match IT&E Na'Gupu 's 37-23 record.

Behind the co-leaders is Bammy's DJ Fish (34-26), which routed Jonny's Rehab (24-36), 11-4, at home, while Oceanside Bar & Grill's Shooters (26-34) upset Es'y's Kitchen Taya Guaha (27-33), 9-6, at home.

Notables include a 160 high-in by naughty Boyz' John Cabrera and a 121 high-out by Oneshot's Scott Guerrero.

In other standings, Es'y Kitchen's Diamond Force, Jonny's Bar & Grill's Kyodai and Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Zyndikato currently lead their respective divisions.

Diamond Force torched Oceanside's M-Destroyers (30-38), 16-1, at home last Wednesday to reclaim the top spot in the Masters field with its 49-19 card.

Joe's Dart Seekers (43-25) are in second place after a 12-5 home rout over the SOS Bar & Grill's The Joker (34-34).

SOS's Fantastic Baby! (41-27) worked an 11-6 win over sister-squad Mixblood Rookies (26-42) in a home draw, and VFW's Maharot Crew (39-29) glided past Sand's Bar's Juvy Especialist (10-58), 11-6, at home.

Notables remain a 160 high-in by Rick Elefante and a 128 high-out by Wilson Quiban.

In Thursday's B Flame Tree pairings, Kyodai cut through Joe's Dart K'nhytes (22-38), 12-3, at home to extend its domination over the field to eight games. Kyodai carries an 42-18 slate.

Naked Fish's Team Exoctic (34-26) is leading the race for second place after notching a 9-6 home-win over VFW's Dutty Gunz (27-33). Third placer Joe's Real Deal (33-27) and Bammy's Lilapuching (31-29) are still within range, however the former stunned the latter, 11-4, in a sweet upset at home. Bammy's TaK'Ka Hao (27-33) edged Sand's Juvy Refaluauns (24-36), 8-7, also at home.

Notables remain a 152 high-in by Kyodai's Ton Tomokane and a 114 high-out by Allan Cabrera.

Zyndikato is just clinging to one-game lead in the C division despite capping a strong 12-3 decision over Sand's Juvy Aschoascho (19-41). Zyndikato improved to a league-best 44-16 markers, but is feeling the heat from Lupeyt (43-17) which matched the former's effort in surmounting the Shottas (24-36) in a road match held at Oceanside.

In other results, Naked Fish's Hafa Mas (39-21) survived SOS's Joker Royal (25-35), 8-7, on the road to remain in third place; Island Apparel OH! MG (35-25) strengthened its position in fourth with a strong 11-4 home-win over the Oceanside M-Side Shooters (16-44); and fifth-ranked VFW Warriors (31-29) narrowly escaped host Jonny's Sparks (24-36), 8-7.

Notables include a 150 high-in by OH! MG's Carol Chargualaf and a 110 high-out by Lupeyt's Gil Gapor.

ZHAILA'S

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QQ, which dropped its first two games, escaped with the 6-point win after hitting their outside shots in the fourth canto. QQ nailed three triples in the final period where it scored its most points (24) in all four quarters. QQ made no more 19 points in the first three frames, tallying 10 in the first, 12 in the second, and 18 in the third.

Marlon Sison knocked in two treys in the final frame, while Chris Lansang connected one and they both made free throws in the homestretch to protect QQ's lead. Kermit Concepcion also hit crucial baskets in the fourth quarter, scoring 6 of his team-high 14 markers. Sison finished with 11, while Elgene Mangali and Lansang added 12 and 9, respectively.

Dennis Morales had 20 points for Freestyl, which led at the end of each of the first three quarters before faltering on offense in the last canto. Freestyl made only 18 points and 10 of them came from the foul line.

First Game

Zhaila's All Starz 93 – Ajoste 35, Ja. Bahillo 14, Jef. Bahillo 13, Chan 13, E. Lansang 9, R. Lansang 2, Jer. Bahillo 2, Tudela 2.

KFC/Taco Bell 82 – Fernando 24, Maranan 13, Francisco 13, Dela Rosa 8, Mafi 8, R. Deleon Guerrero 4. J. Deleon Guerrero 3, Lee 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-18, 47-28, 66-53, 93-82.

Second Game

QQ Rent A Car 64 – Concepcion 14, Mangali 12, Sison 11, Lansang 9, Acosta 8, Bondoc 2, Saplan 2.

Freestyl 58 – Morales 20, Brennan 18, Yalung 9, G. Cruz 9, Detera 1.

Scoring by quarters: 10-15, 22-24, 40-41, 64-58.

YANKEES

From Page 24

while to finish due to the uncooperative Mother Nature and the Yankees, who eked out a 14-7 win Game 1, did not want to extend the series longer and went for the sweep.

The Brewers also swept the IT&E-Shell Fielders in their separate semis duel and are the slight favorites in the finals tiff that will start on Monday at 7pm.

The Yankees took the last finals berth after getting a good start in Game 3 and surviving the Angels' run midway in the match.

Greg Iskawa busted a one-out double in the first inning and broke the ice off an error that helped spark a pair of RBI singles from Jerome Dave Camacho Jr. and Jonathan Tenorio later in the frame for the Yankees' 3-0 lead.

The Angels' Manny Cabrera settled down on the mound after the opening inning and they tied the game at 3-all, later in the bottom of the third inning.

The Angels connected with four hits in the early rally that resulted in a couple of RBI base smashes from John Reyes and Nunu Kapileo, and an RBI double from Nick Cruz.

Marvin Kaipat singled, making it around in the fourth inning to put the Angels ahead, 4-3, and Hector Effrain reached on an error and scored in the sixth to stretch the lead, 5-3, heading into the last three innings of the match.

Feeling the pressure, the Yankees rose to the occasion at the start of the seventh inning and reclaimed the upper hand, 7-5, off three hits and a sacrifice fly from Dave Jones. TJ Agulto highlighted the surge with a two-RBI single that scored Jack Castro and Frank Robert.

Bob Castro came in to relieve Yankees starting pitcher Mel Sakisat in the bottom frame and the former held down the fort late in the game. Greg Camacho backed Castro up with a run in the top of the eighth and the Yankees tallied three insurance runs in the last inning.

The Yankees' top of the lineup managed its late offense off just one hit, which went down in the books as an RBI single for Jerome Delos Santos. Delos Santos and the first run came home off errors.

The Angels were held to just one run in the bottom of the eighth inning off Reyes' sacrifice fly and left Cruz stranded at third base in the last inning after designated hitter Fred Kaipat flied out to right field.

NMICF

From Page 24

zai Trail. Both courses will start and end at PauPau Beach.

For the road bike race, participants will cruise along Banzai Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, Suicide Cliff, and Banzai Cliff. The road bike race will also begin and end at PauPau Beach, while a separate race for kids will also take place around the parking area at the starting line.

All races will start at 7am, while registration is at 6am. Entrance fee is $20, which includes membership to NMICF and discounts to future races.

Raffle prizes will be given away at the end of the event, while organizers will also hand prizes to the top finishers in the various races. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

USADA to strip Armstrong of 7 Tour titles

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Angels complete 3-game sweep of Red Sox

PAGE 22

Yankees set finals date with Brewers

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Saipan Stevedore Company Yankees arranged a finals duel against the top-ranked Tan Holdings Brewers after sweeping erstwhile champions St. Michael's Medical Response Angels in their semis series in the 2012 Saipan Major League.

A 11-6 victory in Game 2 of their best-of-three semis showdown last Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield finally advanced the Yankees to the best-of-five finale.

The last semis pairing took a

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Saipan Stevedore Company Yankees third baseman Jerome Delos Santos follows through on an RBI single during Game 2 of their SML semis series against the St. Michael's Medical Response Angels last Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

NMICF hosts bike race tomorrow

Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation it coordination with Tan Holdings will be holding its inaugural race tomorrow.

The event, which Tan Holdings is supporting in celebration of its 40 years of doing business in the Marianas, will have races both in the MTB and road bike divisions.

The MTB race has two courses with the full one bringing bikers to Binadu Drive, one million tank, Radar Road, Kalebera, Autobahn Trail, Santa Claus Lane, and Banzai Trail. The short course will have riders passing through Binadu Drive, the back road of the Marianas Country Club, Kimikaze, pave road to Grotto, Santa Clause Lane, and Ban-

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Rotary caging tips off Sept. 5

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The 21st Annual Rotary Club of Saipan Youth Basketball League is scheduled to kick off on Sept. 5 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Nineteen teams are expected to compete in the league's U16 and U19 division contests. Seven teams have already confirmed their participation in the U19 division, including the defending champions Sonics, a pair of squads from the Rollers Basketball Club, the Aces,

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Sonics' Jaymark De Guzman drives to the basket against the RBC's Fast 12 during their U19 title game in the Rotary caging last season at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

Zhaila's keeps unbeaten record

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Zhaila's All Starz zoomed to its fourth win in as many games after downing defending champion KFC/Taco Bell, 92-83, in a make-up match in the 2012 DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League last Thursday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Zhaila's seized control of the game in the second canto and withstood KFC/Taco Bell's third-quarter storm to gain the solo lead in Pool A with its immaculate 4-0 record. KFC/Taco Bell fell to a 1-2 card and is in the middle of the pack in the nine-team Pool A.

After holding a shaky one-point lead at the end of the first period, 19-18, Zhaila's uncorked a 28-10 scoring in the second period to open a 47-28 halftime advantage. Brian Ajoste, who had 27 big points in their 79-70 victory over Highway Express last Tuesday, was in his usual element two days later, firing 10 of his 35 markers in the second-quarter breakaway.

Jason Bahillo also contributed in the second canto, as he canned three triples and almost outgunned the entire KFC/Taco Bell players, who mustered only four field goals in that frame. The defending champion struggled so much on offense that none of its players scored more than 2 points in the second quarter.

KFC/Taco Bell then tried to regain its bearings at the start of the second half and made little headway when it outgunned Zhaila's, 33-19. Ralph Francisco, Herbert Maranan, and Angelo Fernando combined for 19 points in the third canto for the manageable deficit, 53-56. The defending champion sliced the lead after neutralizing Ajoste, who had only 6 points in the third with for our his production coming from the free throw line.

KFC/Taco Bell continued to play catch up in the fourth, but the best it could do was moved within six, as Ajoste and company drained timely baskets to secure the 11-point win.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Zhaila's All Starz' Jason Bahillo, seen here pulling up for a triple in their game against Highway Express, canned three treys in their second-quarter breakaway against KFC in the DLX caging last Thursday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

QQ Rent A Car 64, Freestyl 58

In the second make-up game of the night, QQ Rent A Car broke into the win column after edging Freestyl.

See **ZHAILA'S** on **Page 23**